

Thursday October 10 1996

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,680

Jim White on why the Tories have the blues

The age of anxiety

G2 with European weather



Books

The power of poetry

New poems by Ted Hughes and Christopher Reid. Plus: John le Carré in Panama
G2 pages 8/11

Online

Computer that can predict human conflict

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Chancellor to face down critics despite whispering campaign by Euro-sceptics

Clarke's crucial gamble

Tories on tightrope over tax handout

Michael White
Political Editor

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will today take one of the crucial gambles of his political career when he faces down the simmering hostility of a pre-election Tory conference without dangling budget tax cuts before his wary audience.

In contrast to last year's conference tease about tax cuts — "You may think that I couldn't possibly comment" — Mr Clarke will give neither voters nor the City any clues, other than to repeat his mantra that his November 28 budget will include "nothing irremediable".

With many sceptics baying for cuts in tax and spending — as well as for the Chancellor's blood over Europe on the conference fringe — it will take all the party managers' manipulative skills to prevent a row finally boiling over. A whispering campaign is going on to undermine Mr Clarke.

In a conciliatory move, Mr Clarke has promised colleagues that he will say nothing in this morning's speech to enrage the sceptics by making the case for Britain to join the European single currency if the terms are right — a message which he has provocatively repeated in recent interviews.

"You will not be able to put a piece of paper between what the Prime Minister says and what he says," predicted one Clarke adviser. "It will be a



positive speech. He will say we will win."

Since last year's tax tease — which led to a £3.2 billion net budget tax cut, the first for three years — Mr Clarke's unpopularity with the Euro-sceptic wing of the party has deepened to the point where a persistent campaign is under way to undermine him or remove him from office.

Peter Lilley, a Euro-sceptic tax-cutter, is their designated replacement, the man whom rightwing Tories believe could give them two policies with which to beat rampant New Labour next spring. He was profiled as a "chancellor in waiting" by yesterday's Daily Telegraph.

The campaign against the Chancellor includes repeated claims that John Major of-fared his job to Michael Heseltine at the height of the crisis over John Redwood's leadership challenge last year.

"Clarke was expendable to keep Hesza at bay," one right-winger claimed this week. "Major told Ken he was going to be Leader of the House."

Rightwing Tories see the Chancellor as arrogant and provocative in the fights over Europe, and even the welfare state. The claim that he was close to leaving the Treasury 14 months ago, privately peddled by some senior Tories, has been categorically denied in Bournemouth this week by friends of Mr Major, Mr He-

seline and Mr Clarke. "It's just not true," said one.

On BBC's Breakfast With Frost last Sunday, Mr Major praised Mr Clarke as a close personal friend and excellent Chancellor. Mr Heseltine, who has never shown an interest in the Treasury, ended up as Deputy Prime Minister, while his supporters voted for Mr Major against Mr Redwood last July.

One measure of the turbulence last summer is the persistent claim that the night before he quit the Cabinet Mr Redwood offered to stand aside if Michael Portillo would challenge Mr Major instead. Mr Portillo, then the darling of the right, supposedly said: "I can't do it."

Some rightwingers claim Mr Redwood planned to resign over last year's budget if Mr Major had not flushed him out in July. This week he has again challenged Mr Clarke to make deep spending cuts justifying lasting tax cuts — instead of the "Trotsky cuts" that Mr Clarke says might have to be reversed.

Mr Clarke will today stress the classless, meritocratic message which Tory campaign managers are hoping to use against Tony Blair's Labour Party. He will also emphasise the need for a sustainable recovery which will deliver low taxes, low inflation and low interest rates over a long period.

Mr Clarke's cabinet rival, Mr Lilley, acknowledged the whispering behind the scenes in Bournemouth in his conference speech yesterday. Warning of the threat posed to sovereignty by a Labour victory the social security secretary appealed for loyalty to Mr Major.

"I am sick and tired of Conservatives who fuel the media by sniping at their colleagues," he told delegates. "In two minutes they can undo all the good work you, the party workers, have done in a year. So let's turn our fire on Labour."



John Major, captain of the Titanic, as portrayed in tonight's Labour Party political broadcast. Spitting Image was axed in January, but its latex puppets have been dusted down for a final appearance, and Labour hopes it will avert the big switch-off which accompanies party propaganda. A Spitting Image spokesman said: "It is a fitting high to go out on."

Press warned on royal stories

Lawrence Donegan

LORD Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, last night issued his most forceful condemnation of "unjustified" newspaper reporting of the royal family and warned it could lead to statutory controls on the media.

"The success of press self-regulation has been put under threat by the recent spate of royal stories, he says. Editors do not have carte blanche to run intrusive stories without any defence of public interest.

"Nobody would benefit from statutory controls — neither the public, whose complaints we deal with (free of charge) in their hundreds every month, nor industry, which would be dragged into a quagmire of litigation," the PCC chairman says in a letter to today's Times.

Lord Wakeham's warning follows an embarrassing climbdown by the Sun newspaper over its coverage of a hoax video tape purporting to show Princess Diana and her former lover James Hewitt.

Recent coverage of the Duchess of York's private life has been criticised and Buckingham Palace has asked the Daily Express to retract a story that Prince William had "a crush" on a 17-year-old schoolgirl.

Lord Wakeham highlights his particular concerns about the effects of such coverage on the children of the royals.

"When the story breaks they are the first to suffer. I can understand — as any parent could — why, in the circumstances, those individuals are reluctant to complain and prolong the suffering through the investigation.

"This is unfortunate because it might lead some newspapers into believing that they have carte blanche to invade their privacy," he says.

Sun plea on hoaxers, page 4

Saiame vastu pükse (We wuz robbed)

Patrick Glenn in Tallinn

"ONE team in Tallinn, there's only one team in Tallinn," sang the killed heroes on the terrace of the Kadrioru stadium in the Estonian capital. For once, they had it — literally as well as metaphorically — dead right.

Scotland were on their own as kick-off approached in yesterday's World Cup qualifying match. Estonia were 100 kilometres away, resisting an order from Fifa, international football's governing body, to be at their ground by 5pm.

At the appointed hour, the Scotland team, the Yugoslav referee and his two assistants took the field, exchanged formalities in the centre circle — handshakes all round — and went through a mock coin-tossing ritual.

As John Collins, the Scotland captain, won the call, one of the assistant referees — clearly a stickler for the rules — went to the "home" goal and checked the nets.

The referee signalled the start. Billy Dodds, the Aberdeen striker, slipped the ball to Collins, whose first touch brought the second, and final, toot of Miroslav Radoman's whistle; another famous victory was



A Scottish fan cheers the final whistle. PHOTOGRAPH BY BEN RADFORD

added to the Scottish canon and their prospects of qualifying for France '98 from Group 4 had soared. Officially, the score line will read 3-0.

The farce had been caused by the poor flood-lighting at the Kadrioru stadium. On Tuesday night,

Gantenbein of Luxembourg, it was determined that the match would start at its original time of 6.45pm.

Gantenbein, however, was tormented through the night and, after hurried consultation with his Fifa bosses in Zurich, a final decision was taken to bring the match forward to 5pm.

The Estonians insisted that it was a logistical impossibility for them as some of their part-time players were still at work — as were their supporters — and the others were at a training camp at Kethna, 62 miles away.

Aiver Pohlak, the Estonian FA president, said: "We shall leave our headquarters at 4pm as scheduled for a 6.45pm kick-off."

"We know that the Scots will have been and gone by then and there will be no game today. But we do think the Scottish FA have been very, very unfair to us."

The comic element of the affair was not lost on the travelling fans, who added another song or two to their repertoire. "Sing in the daylight, we only sing in the daylight" was followed by the "Always look on the bright side of life".

"We wuz robbed in Estonia."

Frank Keating, page 14

Call for tribunal gains strength

David Hencks
Westminster Correspondent

DOUIG Hoyle, a prominent member of the Commons standards and privileges committee yesterday called for an independent tribunal chaired by a judge to investigate the "cash for questions" scandal because Parliament's top body was not capable of doing the job.

In a frank admission to the Guardian, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party said: "I don't believe that the Commissioner for Standards [Sir Gordon Downey] was set up to consider such a far-reaching and detailed inquiry which affects the whole standing of Parliament."

"It is far too large an inquiry to be undertaken with such limited staffing. The public will not like Parliament to be examining itself on such a serious issue."

Mr Hoyle, the MP for Warrington North, also disclosed that he would not participate in any hearings of the inquiry because £500 from Ian Greer Associates, the lobbying company at the centre of the scandal, was paid into his election fund.

"I did not accept, nor did I

request, any money from Ian Greer, but because he made a donation to my constituency in 1987 I do not think it would be right of me to participate."

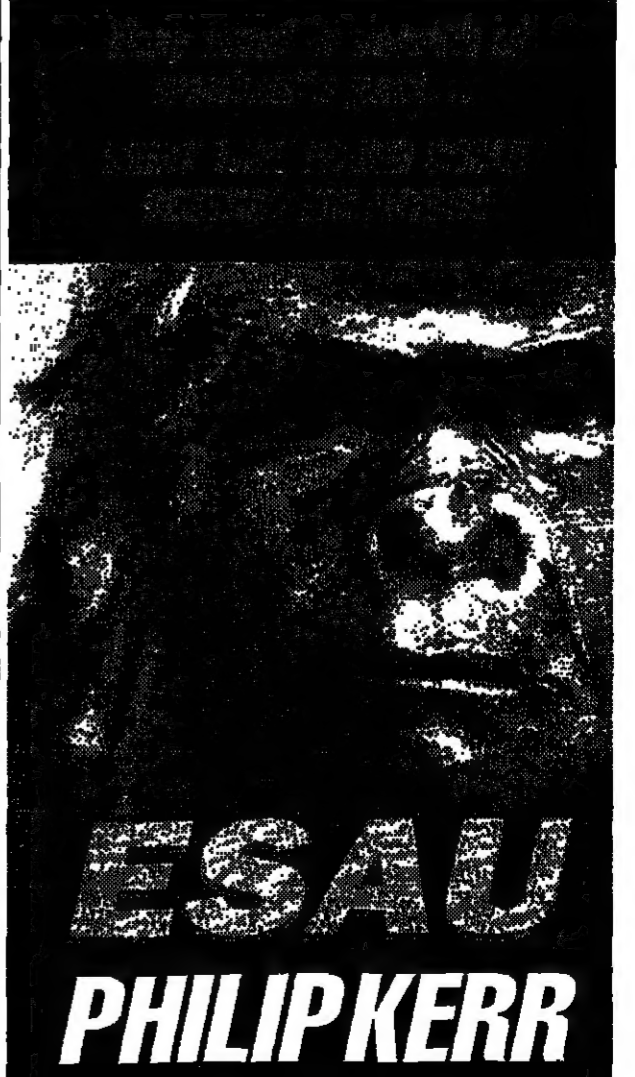
His warning comes a day after Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown wrote to John Major demanding an independent inquiry chaired by a judge.

There is understood to be growing concern among Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs about the impartiality of the body to handle the allegations against disgraced former minister Neil Hamilton.

Those with experience of the former privileges committee disbanded after the Nolan report feel that Tony Newton, the Cabinet minister who chairs the proceedings, did his best to hide the full extent of Mohamed Al Fayed's allegations against Mr Hamilton.

Some Labour MPs believe that Mr Newton engaged in a cover-up both at the committee — by insisting it was held in secret — and in Parliament by tabling a special motion to prevent the findings becoming public.

MPs on the standards and privileges committee will meet on Monday for what looks certain to be a stormy session when Parliament returns.



PHILIP KERR

Inside Britain

London, the financial centre, will today confront a growing case among its demoralised often-sold army.

World News

London, the financial centre, will today confront a growing case among its demoralised often-sold army.

Finance

Consumers watchdogs believe government intervention to bring competition to the gas market in southwest England is in chaos.

Sport

England returned to Wembley for the first time since Euro 96, taking on bogey side Poland in a World Cup qualifying match.

Comment and Letters 8
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Radio 16; TV 16



Bestselling author of BRIDRON, available in Vintage Paperback

Conference sketch

Rifkind has sweet smell of success



Simon Hoggart

THE Foreign Secretary received the longest standing ovation of his life yesterday, suggesting that he may at last have conquered his halitosis problem.

As regular readers know, Mr Rifkind has, in the past, suffered from breath so bad it could stop a runaway horse.

This caused some anxiety when he was promoted to his present job. One had a vision of foreign dignitaries fleeing the conference table amid cries of "Mein Gott", "Zut" and "Sapristi!"

Scottish Journalists tell me the problem, while still present, is milder than it once was.

"You can get quite close to him on a good day," one said. In any event, clouds of minty freshness were billowing out over the Tory conference yesterday.

Mr Rifkind sprayed them with Gold Spot, rubbed Old Spice under their arms, drenched them in mango flavoured body-scrub, and left them feeling so tingling good that they might even make him party leader — now that John Redwood has ruled himself out by his Panorama appearance this week.

An hour later we enjoyed an innovation, a question and answer session with the Prime Minister. Mr Major seemed obsessed with the notion that we hacks believed the questions would be planted. We didn't. We knew that, even selected at random, every questioner would be as gentle as any sucking Fabrikant.

As Hilare Belloc nearly wrote: "You cannot hope to orchestrate / Thank God a Tory delegate. / But seeing what the creep will do / Unfixed, there's no occasion to."

The first questioner put the PM on the spot with a toughie concerning "Labour's pay-masters, the trade unions". Mr Major reeled from this savage assault. "And the press think that the questions are planted!" he said. "They

should ask one or two questions — that should satisfy their cynical minds!"

The second delegate had another vicious poser. Since privatisation had been such a huge success, how was the Government going to get the message across to the voters?

A black woman, Lurline Champagne, wanted the world to know that the Tories were the party for ethnic minorities.

Mr Major took his jacket off to show he meant business. Someone wanted to know what the Government was going to do about scroungers and abusers of the welfare system. These people were ruthless. A woman who wanted handgrips banned applied some Vaseline first: "You did not get where you are today by waiting to hear what your opinion should be," she claimed. Nonsense; that's exactly how he got where he is today.

A man who wanted to know about the single currency began by announcing that "traditional Tory voters are coming home!" Mr Major replied: "Those cynical journalists would have to be pretty cynical to imagine that these questions are rigged!"

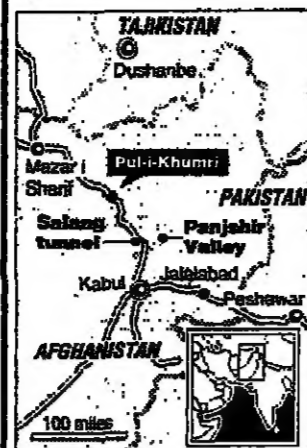
As the questions got harsher ("What can we tell voters to assure them that this nation is safe in our hands?") Mr Major tried to wriggle off the hook by rambling. We joined him at a school in a slum area of Lima, where he met "a whole selection of mopets", one of whom wanted to be a brain surgeon.

It was not quite clear what lesson the ambitious Peruvian moppet had for us, but that didn't matter, because moments later we were at Chequers in the company of Boris Yeltsin.

The anecdote went on forever. Like all truly heroic bores, Mr Major does not spare a single detail, including President Yeltsin's footwear and his own pillow.

The punchline — Russian interpreter bangs on door of local pub. "Open up, it's the President of Russia!" followed by reply from inside, "And this is the Kaiser!" — won loud applause. Yet I was puzzled. Surely the Chequers local is a place where world leaders are to be found drinking most weekends. Indeed, it possibly was the Kaiser.

Mountain ambush scatters fighters and halts advance
Tables turned on Taliban



Jonathan Steele in Pul-i-Khumri, north of the Salang Pass

THE Taliban Islamic militias admitted yesterday they had suffered their first serious losses in battle since seizing power across most of Afghanistan, including the capital, Kabul, last month.

The tables were turned on Tuesday by an offensive, backed by heavy shelling, across the southern slopes of the strategic Salang Pass, by troops fighting under General

Ahmed Shah Massoud, former defence minister loyal to the country's deposed president.

The assault appeared to have scattered and badly damaged the Taliban, with reports claiming that a large Taliban force is trapped in the pass, cut off from their base at Gulbahar from which they had tried to advance into Gen Massoud's Panjshir valley stronghold. "There are no Taliban left in Gulbahar," a Western aid worker said.

He said a colleague in the Taliban headquarter town of Jabal-us-Siraj, where the road to Gulbahar forks from the

main highway up to the Salang Pass, had counted 39 dead Taliban being brought down the highway during a single hour late on Tuesday.

The aid worker said the Taliban had suffered at least 100 dead and many more wounded in fighting that raged overnight as Gen Massoud's men shelled concentrations of fighters and reinforcements heading for the Salang Pass across the Hindu Kush mountain range.

The Taliban claimed to have fended off the attack but, unusually, conceded 15 dead. "It was hard to contain the attacks and the fighting was

very serious, but we brought up heavy reinforcements and halted it. We are now in control," said Maulavi Khairulla Haqani, the Salang battlefield Taliban commander.

But his front line at Qabatak, about nine miles north of Jabal-us-Siraj, was 13 miles south of where it was before the attack began on Tuesday morning.

Troops loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the powerful warlord of northern Afghanistan who entered the war against the Taliban on Tuesday, held key positions higher up the pass but did not take part in the ambush.

He has been careful not to take the offensive against the Taliban after accusing them of putting Afghanistan's security at risk by not calling a ceasefire and joining talks for a coalition government.

The ambush — on the southern slopes of the pass at Qabatak, a few miles north of Jabal-us-Siraj — was launched by Basir Salangi, a local commander. His headquarters had been occupied a few days earlier by the Taliban who then used it as their front-line base at the foot of the ascent towards the Salang tunnel.

Leader comment, page 8

Court quiz
row rapist
gets life

Change in law urged after victim's six days in witness box reliving attack

Stuart Miller

A MULTIPLE rapist who provoked fury by cross-examining his victim about her ordeal for six days yesterday given two life sentences at the Old Bailey.

Ralston Edwards, aged 32, who has a long record of convictions for a rape and assault on women, was convicted in August of twice raping Julia Mason over a 16-hour period.

Sentencing him to life on each charge yesterday, Judge Ann Goddard told Edwards, of Catford, south-east London: "In my view, you are a danger to women which in the past you have clearly demonstrated."

Edwards's lengthy trial caused a public outcry and led to calls for a change in the law that allowed an alleged sex attacker defending himself to cross-examine his victim. During the cross-examination he wore the same clothes as he did for the

attack and appeared to relish making Ms Mason, a 24-year-old mother-of-two, relive in detail the 16 hours in which he raped and humiliated her at his filthy home. She had to be prescribed a tranquilliser during his cross-examination, and at one stage ran from court complaining she was feeling physically sick.

Ms Mason, who was not in court yesterday because of illness, described the questioning as being raped all over again, and is now leading calls for the law to be changed. She has waived her right to anonymity.

Outside the court yesterday her boyfriend, Billy Powers, and a Victim Support representative, Maureen Tubby, welcomed the sentence in a short statement. "From day one, Julia wanted the law changed. Hopefully, that will now happen speedily."

The sentence sparked renewed demands that the right of the victim take precedence over those of the accused. Helen Feggs, of Victim Support, said: "We are very concerned about the implications of this case. The prospect of not only facing the defendant, but being subjected to cross-examination by him in court must be terrifying beyond belief."

"We hope that following this case, the Government will thoroughly review the law."

Julie Bindel, of the International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Women's Citizenship, said she hoped the sentence would deter other attackers. "One change which could be implemented immediately is an exemption clause preventing anybody accused of a sexual offence from cross-examining their victims. We do it with cases involving children and it should be introduced for women."

But Linda Diggin, co-ordinator of Rights for Women, said: "What we do think would help is the use of video



A drawing of Ralston Edwards (right) in court at the Old Bailey during his rape trial, in which he defended himself

links to protect women. But people do have a right by law to defend themselves. The issue is how women are treated by the law."

Judge Goddard said Edwards had shown no sign of remorse, but made it clear that she had not increased the sentence because he had contested the charges or defended himself.

"I told the jury they might think you were single-minded and determined during the trial," she told him. "That is part of your character. You are an intelligent man. You see things only from your point of view. If you want to inflict harm on a woman, you

will, and you do not consider your victims at all."

Edwards had blighted Ms Mason's life, she added.

Edwards had a previous conviction for breaking into a young woman's flat and raping her in front of her 16-

month-old-baby in 1984. He was once acquitted of rape after defending himself. He had also been jailed for violent assaults on women, including his wife, whom he once beat with sticks and flex over an eight-hour period.

First night

Tricks leave cold classic lifeless

Lyn Gardner

Les Danaides National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

THE car park attendant was not encouraging: pointing to a series of empty places, he said I could park anywhere, he was not expecting many for "the foreign thing" tonight. Come next week, it would be a different matter, Cliff Richard would be here to "give his Heathcliff".

"The foreign thing", otherwise known as Aeschylus's lost epic tragedy, Les Danaides, directed by the acclaimed Romanian Silviu Purcarete, whose production of Phaedra was a wonder to behold, may not be a crowd puller, but the sparsity of the audience was made up for by the numbers on stage. Les Danaides is the Greek tragedy with a chorus of more than 100. There are times when, even on a stage the size of a football pitch, it looks as if there may be an audience.

Only one part of the tetralogy, The Suppliants, has survived, so Purcarete has turned detective, piecing together scraps and fragments, drawing on other texts by Aeschylus and, if necessary, inventing to fill in the gaps in a story that recounts the birth of the Greek nation and, in effect, the beginning of European civilisation.

"Europa" is the first word of the text, underlining Purcarete's belief that the Danaides are our ancestors, "the eggs of humanity today".

The Danaides are the 50 daughters of Danaos who, pursued by their cousins, the 50

sons of Aegyptus, seek sanctuary on the shores of Argos. Here they are cornered by the sons, who force them into marriage. But the Danaides take a bloody revenge, killing their grooms on their wedding night. In turn, all but one of the Danaides are killed and their ghosts condemned to eternal torture.

Purcarete's production, performed in French with English surtitles, is big, formal, cold and very white, and offers 101 ingenious uses for an empty suitcase. The Danaides, permanent, restless refugees in both life and death, lug their cases about, one minute using them as coffins or cutlery drawers and the next using them as large, lego-style building bricks. Danaos, their father, who sports a goatee beard and pendulous woman's breasts, is literally gobbled up by a suitcase.

There are plenty of arresting images like that in an evening where the threatening swell of male violence represented by the satyr-robed sons of Aegyptus, who would not be out of place at a football stadium, is contrasted with the fluttery femininity of the blue-clad Danaides, who run round in whirlpools of terror.

The women's revenge is terrifying and wonderful and domestic. "A job well done," the gods observe ironically.

But while you are constantly looking to see how Purcarete will surprise you next, the piece is really engaging only on an intellectual level. Its distant formality and persistent trickiness render it emotionally lifeless.

This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's Guardian.

Inspector wins round

Sarah Boseley

A POLICE inspector has been given the go-ahead to accuse the Lincolnshire constabulary at an industrial tribunal of "warming off" colleagues who she says support her allegations of sexual harassment and of giving good jobs to those prepared to give evidence against her.

Yesterday Lincolnshire's chief constable failed to stop

Inspector Cydena Fleming's allegations from becoming public. An employment appeals tribunal ruled she could introduce the evidence as part of her case.

Ms Fleming, aged 38, alleges that the problems at Gainsborough police station began after she rejected the sexual advances of one police officer and gave another a poor appraisal. She was subjected, she says, to "gross institutional hostility".



Julia Mason: cross-examination was likened being raped again

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

THE German car company BMW yesterday unveiled ambitious plans to boost production at its Rover subsidiary by 80 per cent, to 800,000 cars a year.

But it warned there would be no increase in jobs and the UK car company would remain in the red until the turn of the century.

Pledging to invest £500 million a year in Rover until the year 2000, Walter Hasselkus, the UK company's chief executive, said BMW would replace Rover's entire model range to make it more profitable and more upmarket, and to simplify its manufacturing.

Dr Hasselkus, who became chief executive six weeks ago amid reports of disquiet about the UK company's performance, said the parent group wanted to put Rover "on the map as a very British, highly successful, respected and profitable car company".

He added: "British means elegance, style, relaxed motoring. The world is waiting for British motor cars not in

their millions, but in their hundreds of thousands."

But he warned there was a gap in the quality of Rovers and BMW standards. This was partly due to the greater age of Rover designs. Investment would put this right.

Dr Hasselkus was speaking in the wake of reports that BMW and Rover were at loggerheads over investment plans and the pace of new car development. Last week BMW announced it was to invest in a South American engine plant to supply engines for the new version of the Mini.

Some of the higher output at Rover would follow the launch of the new Mini. Other new products would account for the remainder of the increase.

The strategy would not create new jobs, given that BMW wants Rover to boost productivity by 4 per cent a year.

In a veiled warning to the Government, Dr Hasselkus said the BMW board would need nearly £80 million of state aid to safeguard 2,000 Rover jobs by going ahead with a new £500 million engine plant in the West Midlands.

Pointing out that BMW would take a "commercial decision" on where to place the plant, Dr Hasselkus indicated that putting it outside Britain would spell an end to Rover engine manufacturing within 10 years. The Government has yet to respond to BMW's request.

BMW bought Rover from British Aerospace for £800 million in 1994. The group has already invested £1.5 billion in the UK company. Brushing aside suggestions that BMW was disappointed with the acquisition, Dr Hasselkus said

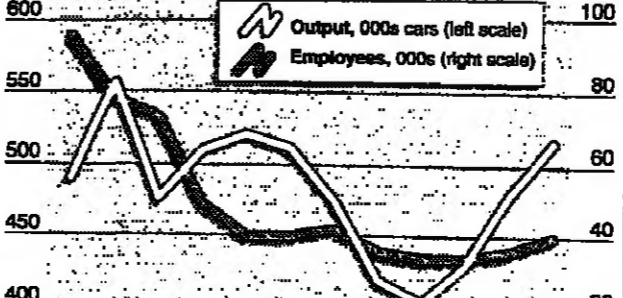
Rover would turn in a profit on BMW's conservative accounting standards only by 1999.

By then BMW would have invested £3 billion in the group. The German parent was investing for the long term.

In an attempt to dispel fears that Rover would be swallowed up by BMW, Dr Hasselkus said the two companies would share engines and electronics, which account for an increasing proportion of the cost of a car.

BL/Rover

Output and employees



Clive, everyone knows it's good to talk, but sometimes it's good to listen.

Clive Anderson can talk. And talk. And talk. In this week's Radio Times future guests can learn how to get a word in edgeways.

RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

Among the... stir was the... attracted a... conference... at B...

Advertisement for Bacon from Kamal Ahmed on... featuring a picture of a man and text about a conference.

Disharmony over song's 'big thank you' for grass that's jewelled and jets refuelled



The Reverend Andrew Parsons outside St Mary's, Wroxham, and, right, with the choir which is divided over his choice of music

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRYN COLTON

Bacon frying, vicar trying, choir retiring

Kamal Ahmed on the row over songs of 'Christianic renewal' that sparked a walk-out by members of a church choir

IT IS a volatile mixture. The Church, traditional music and the thorny question of the need to modernise. Yesterday St Mary's Church in Wroxham, Norfolk, was rent asunder after most of its highly respected choir walked out over a row about the choice of music. The vicar, the Reverend Andrew Parsons, wanted something modern that the children could relate to. Choir members wanted something more traditional. Carole Tims, the choir director, was one of those who walked out, followed by three other male singers and 11 chorists. The organist, Nick Walmesley, has also refused to play until the "sensitive issue" is sorted out. For a choir of 22 it has been a big blow. At the centre of the rumpus is the hymn Autumn Days, which critics say is illustrative of a general downward trend in the quality of church music which in the past has produced such favourites as Abide With Me, Praise My Soul the King of Heaven and Dear Lord and Father of Mankind. Autumn Days is rather more parochial. It tells children to say a "big thank you" for the small of frying bacon in the morning, jets refuelling in the sky and the "taste of apple pie". Mr Walmesley described the hymn, in which God is not mentioned, as "theologically vague". Parishioners first heard of the problems in an article written by Mr Parsons in the church newsletter. "Following intemperate remarks made recently at the church council and in the vestry it has been impossible to continue," he wrote. "The church council decided to accept the resignations." Some church members are particularly angry about evangelical songs chosen at joint services St Mary's holds with the local United Reform Church. There has also been controversy over the timing of Sunday services. "We have offered a number of compromises but none of them seems to suit," said Mr Parsons, whose three children still sing in the choir. "Some people have been somewhat inflexible over the choice of hymns. But we are recruiting again and the choir will continue." Mrs Tims said: "Most of the parents are devastated and angry about what has been going on. There was frustration at the direction the church council wanted the choir to follow. Some members did not always care for the music chosen at the joint services with the United Reform Church. They did not like the times.

Two columns of text comparing 'ANCIENT' and 'MODERN' hymns. The 'ANCIENT' column includes lyrics like 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Praise our Father who art in heaven...' and 'O Sabbath rest by Galilee'. The 'MODERN' column includes lyrics like 'Autumn days when the grass is jewelled, And the sky is blue with a rainbow...' and 'Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling...'. At the bottom, it says 'J.G. Whitner, 1897-92'.

Songs of praise: 'Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire' or 'Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling'

"It has been heartbreaking. I feel bereaved. Not singing at St Mary's has left a huge hole in my life." Autumn Days was written by Estelle White, a former nun who has been cited as one of the founders of the "Christianic renewal" movement of the 1970s. A group of composers decided to try to broaden the appeal of church services by writing more accessible music. Other hymns in the genre include Peace Perfect Peace and As Gentle as Silence, which both appear in the Celebration Hymnal for Every- one. Autumn Days appears in the BBC publication Come and Praise, widely used for primary school assemblies. "Estelle White has done a huge amount to encourage people back into church," said Joan McCrimmon, who has published Ms White's hymns for more than 30 years. "Some people think that it is only pre-19th century music that people should be singing, but there has to be variety. Children love her work. I find it terrible that she is being criticised."

Dirty tricks case officer wins appeal

Richard Norton-Taylor

COLIN Wallace, a former army officer who blew the whistle on a covert black propaganda campaign in Northern Ireland, demanded a full inquiry into his prosecution for manslaughter after his conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Mr Wallace, who has fought for 16 years to clear his name, said evidence at his trial was "manufactured and manipulated". He believed his friend, Jonathan Lewis, was killed by criminal members of the antiquities trade in Brighton. He said: "The police have evidence of this but have suppressed it." He said his lawyers had been passed police reports — not disclosed at the appeal hearing — indicating a link with the antiquities trade. He also called for a government investigation into how his case was handled. His solicitor, Jim Nichol, told the Guardian there was "strong evidence" to suggest the security services were "helping the prosecution along". His suspicions were first aroused when he learnt that the security services had privately approached the Civil Service Appeal Board in 1976 after Mr Wallace was dismissed from his secret role in Northern Ireland. He pointed to a passage in the judgment — described as significant by Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Connell — referring to a pre-trial agreement between the prosecution and defence that there would be no mention of Mr Wallace's brief involvement in a course with SAS soldiers. The court noted the agreement was "frustrated" by the publication in a number of newspapers at a crucial point in the trial of a photograph of Mr Wallace posing in full SAS uniform. The defence had argued that the pictures "could well have led the jury to disbelieve him when he denied any training in unarmed combat". The judges also pointed out that Iain West, a senior Home Office pathologist, said evidence he gave about how Mr Lewis was struck unconscious was obtained "from a conversation with an American secret service agent". Mr West described the blow to Mr Lewis — "like a pile-driver" — as "most unusual". That, said the judges, was "something of an understatement". Neither Dr West nor Professor Keith Munt — who said Mr Lewis was hit by a "karate-type chop" — had ever seen, or heard, or read of a fracture caused that way. But the court's key finding was that new evidence — now supported by Dr West — showed Mr Lewis was struck shortly before he drowned. Though the prosecution conceded this on appeal, a central plank of its case at the trial was that Mr Wallace had knocked out Mr Lewis earlier and had hidden the body for several hours. The appeal court said the trial judge had therefore misdirected the court and the jury had probably discounted evidence from a crucial witness, Amanda Metcalfe, who said she saw Mr Lewis long after the prosecution claimed he had been knocked out. Mr Wallace had initially lied to the police about when he last saw Mr Lewis. But the appeal court could not rule out a reasonable possibility of an innocent explanation, including Mr Wallace's "amorous but not adulterous" relationship with Mr Lewis' wife, a colleague at work. Ann Curno, QC, for the prosecution, asked for a retrial. The Crown Prosecution Service said it could not comment because the case remained sub-judice. Mr Wallace, 53, said he would be seeking compensation. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1981, and was released on parole in 1986. He is now director of a management consultancy.



Colin Wallace: claims trial evidence was manipulated

Police may now face race claims

Clare Dyer on the implications to officers of a ground-breaking appeal court ruling

A GROUND-breaking ruling by the Court of Appeal yesterday opens the way for compensation claims against the police for race discrimination. Three judges held for the first time that police are covered by the Race Relations Act because they provide services to the public when they answer 999 calls or give other assistance. But Lords Justices Peter Gibson, Otton and Hutchison ruled that the act does not apply to the Metropolitan Police as a body, and that claims can only be brought against individual officers. Unless overturned by the House of Lords, the ruling means that officers could face

unnecessary suffering to a dog. Six months later she appeared in court but was acquitted after the prosecution offered no evidence. Yesterday's ruling, which followed a police application to strike her claim out, may not help Ms Farah because the case was brought by a teenage Somali refugee, Zainab Farah, who alleges that officers from the Met wrongly arrested and prosecuted her after responding to a 999 call. She claims that in July 1984, when she was 17, she called the police after she and her 10-year-old cousin were attacked by white teenagers who set a dog on them. She alleges that instead of helping her, officers from Greenwich and Lewisham stations in south London arrested her without cause, detained her, and charged her with affray, assault and causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. A Met spokesman said: "Although the Metropolitan Police Commissioner has won this appeal, the case raises very important issues relating to the carrying out of police duties. The commissioner reaffirms his resolve to provide a police service which operates in a non-discriminatory manner, but is concerned that this judgment obscures many of these important issues." Mike Bennett, spokesman for the London branch of the Police Federation, said: "I would condemn any police officer who acts discriminatorily against any member of the public, but this will make the job harder rather than easier. I would hate to see the day when we treat black people better than any other member of the public simply to protect ourselves from civil action."

Insurers fear £640m Clarke tax ruse

special dividend pay-outs. The Government has also decided to sell off the air traffic control system. Mr Clarke needs to pull in about £1.6 billion of additional revenues in order to cut income tax rates by 1p in the pound. He is under increasing backbench pressure to produce a tax cutting budget to improve the Conservative Party's chances of winning the general election. A rise to 5 per cent in the insurance premium tax would add more than £20 a year to the average family's premium. But it would penalise the poorest households, which spend about 11 per cent of their gross income on motor, house and contents cover. Taxes on insurance premi-

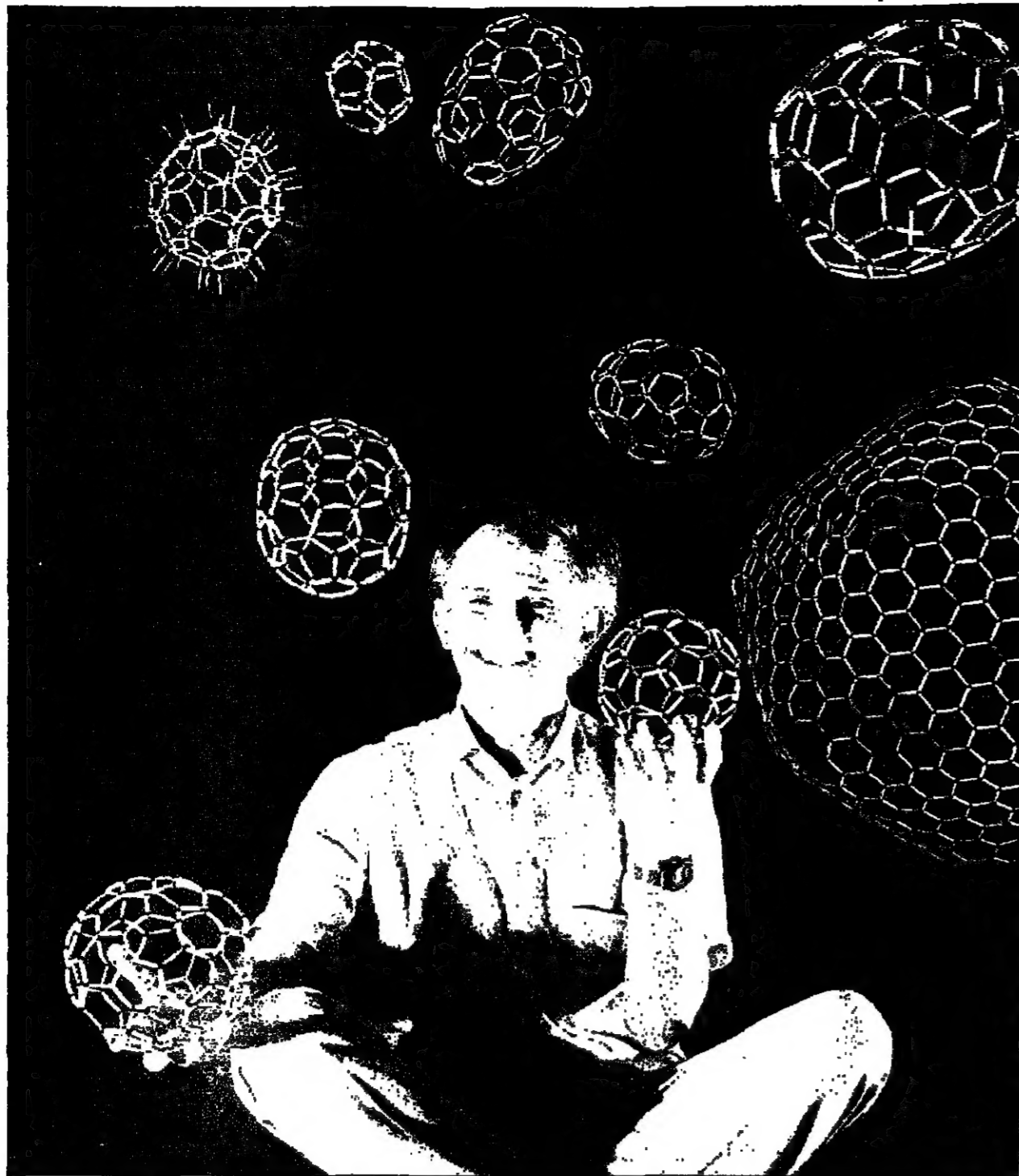
ums were announced in the 1993 budget and came into effect a year later. Then the Chancellor played down fears that the new tax — which is imposed on household, motor and health policies — would be steadily increased over the years and be presented it as an alternative to VAT on premiums. Competition in the insurance industry in recent years has held down premiums, which has largely disguised the impact of the new tax. "This has meant that insurers have been unable to prove that business has been lost because of it. But the Association of British Insurers has warned, for example, that the take-up of insurance by some socio-economic groups in Scotland is "already worryingly low". The Treasury is understood to believe that the high operating costs of insurance companies should be reduced to minimise the impact on consumers of a 5 per cent rate of premium tax. Insurance industry executives have warned the Treasury that higher premium tax could discourage mortgage protection insurance and private health cover, which the Government is keen to encourage to reduce pressures on the National Health Service. The Association of British Insurers has also predicted that a higher rate of premium tax on motor insurance could mean more uninsured motorists on the roads.

Among the Tory foot soldiers the stall creating the biggest stir was the Private Hearing Aid Dispensing display, which attracted a long line of delegates, taking advantage of conference week to get a free hearing check. Jim White at Bournemouth

G2 cover story

Advertisement for first direct bank. It lists various account types and their fees: NatWest Current Plus (£108.00), Lloyds Classic (£96.00), Barclays Bank Account (£60.00), First Direct Cheque Account (£0.00). It also features a coupon for opening a new account, with fields for name, address, and telephone number. The coupon is to be sent to First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds, LS98 1FD.

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Radio Times
WHAT YOU EXPECT



Prize winner Sir Harry Kroto: 'The Government should be wary of assuming that fundamental science is healthy'

Scientist's just dessert is Nobel prize for chemistry

Sir Harry Kroto had his eye on the ball when he won the chemistry award, writes Tim Radford

THE British scientist who won a Nobel award missed the announcement in Stockholm yesterday because he had gone for lunch.

Sir Harry Kroto, a professor of chemistry at Sussex University, was one of three to share the £710,000 Nobel award for chemistry for the discovery of buckminsterfullerenes — the third form of carbon, in soccer ball-shaped molecules of 60 atoms each.

Sir Harry, aged 57, from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, made his discovery in 1985 with his co-winners Robert Curl and Richard Smalley of Rice University, Houston, Texas.

They named the new form of carbon after the architect Buckminster Fuller, designer of the geodesic dome, which the molecule resembles.

Sir Harry had been told that he might be a winner but gave up waiting 15 minutes before the announcement. "I really thought it wasn't on. Then I went for lunch. Three quarters of an hour later, I discovered it had been up. It was a bit of a surprise."

The discovery has opened new fields for chemistry and materials science. Sir Harry had originally worked with a colleague at Sussex on long chains of



Buckminsterfullerenes open new science fields

carbon, and this led him to radioastronomy in Canada, which ended in the discovery of unusual carbon molecules in space.

This led to experiments at Rice University with Rick Smalley and Bob Curl, which showed they could form in carbon stars, "and all hell has broken loose ever since," he said.

"What David Jones had done was to say maybe you could stimulate the formation of these things. But they formed spontaneously; that was the biggest surprise of all."

Fullerenes or buckyballs could be the basis of a scientific revolution — the elongated forms are 200 times stronger than steel — but no one yet has a use for them.

"Why should there be a use?" Sir Harry said. "We are talking about major shifts in our understanding of nature. We have added a third form of carbon to diamond and graphite. There are huge areas of organic chemistry now opened up which are quite different from anything before."

Some of the prize money will go to the public understanding of science. Sir Harry is a backer of the Vega Science Trust which is working to put more science on television, with five new programmes to be screened on BBCs next year.

He is the first Briton to win a Nobel chemistry prize since 1982.

"The Government should be very wary of assuming that fundamental science is healthy because of this," he said.

"The experiments were done at Rice University. They could not have been done in the UK at the time." Nor could the radioastronomy.

"So my feeling is this is an interdisciplinary, international thing; we have the innovative people, but I don't think that they are going to be easily able to do fundamental science."

David Sharrock, Ireland Correspondent

Bruton says IRA is using Nazi tactics

JOHN Bruton, the Irish prime minister, yesterday compared the IRA to the Nazis, accusing them of a "cynical betrayal" of the peace process.

His comments came as police investigating Monday's double bombing of the Army headquarters in Northern Ireland, which left two people critically injured, said the IRA had penetrated security at least four times.

The bombing could have been planned for at least four months, before all-party talks at Stormont commenced in June, officers said.

Addressing the Daily Mail, Mr Bruton said: "The Irish state cannot be hostage to tactical manoeuvres by a violent

movement that is only willing to give up the option of violence if it gets the terms that it has dictated to everyone else."

"Those are the classic tactics of the National Socialists and Fascists during the 1920s and 1930s."

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, said multi-party talks would continue despite the bombing, without Sinn Fein. "They [the IRA] doubtless think this is going to deflect the British Government and the people of Northern Ireland, and it's not."

"Nobody is going to sit down and face people who are threatening, by implication, to get their friends to use bombs," Sir Patrick said.

Detective Chief Superintendent Derek Martindale gave details of three cars used in the attack as well as a description of one of the IRA team involved in its preparation.

The man, who police believe was heavily disguised, is described as aged around 40, with a black beard, dark hair and dark-rimmed glasses. He paid £1,800 cash for a Volkswagen Passat at an auction near Belfast two weeks before the explosions.

The Passat was used as a getaway vehicle, police believe, and was driven into the base before ferrying the bombers away shortly before the devices, both made of between 500 and 700 lbs of explosives, went off. It was found burning in the republican Pogless estate in west Belfast at 4.30pm on Monday.

The two cars used to carry the bombs were Volvo estates, which were bought for £5,000 each in cash. The car contain-

ing the first bomb to go off was gold coloured and was sold in Lisburn — where the Army headquarters is located — by a garage owner.

The second Volvo was red and was bought through a newspaper advertisement on June 4 in east Belfast.

Officers believe that the bombers would have carried out several "dummy runs" before the attack, raising serious concerns about the Army's security procedures at the base's main gate.

Up to 150 RUC officers are involved in the investigation to track the gang whose bombs left 31 people injured. Eight of the victims are still in hospital.

The first bomb went off in the car park. The second exploded 100 yards away outside the medical centre, and Mr Martindale said that some of

those injured in the first explosion were also hurt in the second, 15 minutes later.



Photofit image of heavily disguised IRA bomber

Parents light 17 candles for Dunblane victims

Erlend Clouston on a yesterday's moving farewell from a grieving Scottish community

SEVENTEEN candles were lit in Dunblane as the community formally wound up the most bitter phase of its struggle to recover from the massacre in March.

In a moving 30-minute memorial service around the theme "Into Light", the bereaved parents publicly acknowledged that life had to go on.

The candle-lighting ritual was the touching centrepiece of a service which was attended by Prince Charles, Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth and his shadow, George Robertson. While a distant piper played a Lament for the Children, a string of sombre adults, sometimes accompanied by siblings of the murdered pupils, carried a flame on a central candle to an arc of smaller, sister candles each embossed with the name of a child.

Gwenne Mayor, the teacher who died alongside half her class 210 days earlier, was remembered with two sentences from Psalm 32 and "I will teach you and guide you in the way you should go. I will counsel you and watch over you."

The parents, who still meet weekly, appeared to cope remarkably well with the stress of an occasion that was being beamed live to the nation's television screens. They had requested a minimum of solemnity yesterday and many of them pointedly fled into the medieval cathedral in floral ties and pastel-shaded shoes.

Chris de Burgh, the pop singer who held a fund-raising concert for the town, arrived in a call-length leather coat. Prince Charles adopted a Lowreen jacket and kilt.

Five local ministers conducted the ecumenical service, which was relayed down

deserted streets to three overflow churches.

There was also a strong international element: the opening organ music had been specially written by an Azerbaijani composer, and television presenter Lorraine Kelly delivered a prose poem written by an American.

"Without your child and those that have gone before, there would be no children in heaven," Ms Kelly, her voice wavering slightly, read from the pulpit.

"Playing where they never

men, whose report on Thomas Hamilton's killing, says is expected next week. The nearest the service came to promoting the parents' anti-handguns agenda came halfway through the 15-minute sermon delivered by the Very Rev James Whyte.

"All of us who share the horror must make our journey out of that horror into a safer, more civilised society," he told the congregation of 600, many of whom carried the distinctive Dunblane tartan loop on their jacket lapels.

Prince Charles spent some time after the service speaking to parents. Most of them are still assigned specialist social workers.

The town, too, is still suffering: an official pamphlet, posted in a high street window yesterday urged tourists to respect residents' grief and privacy... by not asking them to provide details of the tragedy.

Next door, oddly, was a video store in which the boxes on display showed mean-eyed men flourishing firearms.

the Rev Whyte's words, clearly aimed directly at the bereaved families, mixed consolation with encouragement. Developing the candle image, he said children gave off "a bright, warm light"; when their mothers and fathers were reunited with them in heaven "they may be wiser

and more serene than you can have imagined," he assured them.

Echoing the families' desire to draw a line of sorts under the events of March 13, he urged them not to be absorbed by their loss, warning: "We must never give our children the impression that to be valued a child must be dead."

In an imaginative touch, the Order of Service also doubled up as a flicker-book that showed the sun rising or falling through the heavens, depending on which way it was ruffled.

Next door, oddly, was a video store in which over a quarter of the boxes on display showed mean-eyed men flourishing firearms.

Supermarkets swallow up corner shops' food trade as shoppers vote on price

David Brindley, Social Services Correspondent

LARGE supermarket chains are driving the corner shop to the wall so fast that non-supermarket spending on some food items now barely registers in the Government's annual survey of household expenditure, published today.

Big supermarkets are out-selling other shops in every measured category of food and non-alcoholic drink except fresh milk, where the definition of other outlets includes milk rounds.

As recently as 1987, the Family Expenditure Survey showed that smaller shops still enjoyed the lion's share of the market for items such

as bread, potatoes, fresh meat, eggs, fresh fruit and confectionery. Sales of fresh fish were almost three times as great as in large supermarkets.

Today's survey, for 1995-96, shows that the large chains are fast outstripping other shops.

Average weekly household spending on fresh fruit was £1.37 at large supermarkets last year, compared to £1.28 the year before, while the average spent on fresh fruit at smaller shops fell over the 12 months from 67p to 58p. Similarly, spending on confectionery at large supermarkets rose from 51p to 60p, while it fell at smaller shops.

Smaller shops are now registering average spending of as little as 2p a week on pasta

and tinned meats, 4p on margarine and soups and 5p on butter and sugar.

On recent trends, big supermarkets will soon be out-selling smaller shops and door-to-door deliveries even on fresh milk. Supermarket milk sales averaged 42p a household a week in 1987, 89p in 1994-95 and 98p in 1995-96. Other milk sales averaged £1.79 in 1987, £1.63 in 1994-95 and £1.48 in 1995-96.

The expenditure survey is conducted by the Office for National Statistics and based on diaries and questionnaires completed by members of 5,797 households.

Those who look part in the survey were given a 25 "incentive payment". Family Spending: HMSO; £35.95

Quotations bible gives soundbites a short shelf life

John Eazard

MANY sayings of the current "soundbite" era in public life are unlikely to last in the English language longer than a few years, according to the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

The revised edition has a new section, Sayings Of The 90s, for highly publicised remarks likely to be forgotten when later editions come out.

These include Eric Cantona's jibe about seagulls, Princess Diana's self-appointment as "a queen in people's hearts", John Major's "back to basics", Norman Lamont's "green shoots of recovery" and Tony Blair's "the art of leadership is saying no". Other nineties utterances

include BR's "wrong kind of snow" and Mrs Thatcher's pointed lesson to her resigning minister Norman Fowler: "I understand your wish to be able to spend more time with your family".

Elizabeth Knowles, the dictionary's managing editor, said yesterday that Mrs Thatcher's phrase was "already in very wide ironical use about resigning politicians". However, Cantona's jibe was less likely to survive than Denis Compton's confession to Brian Lara, "I couldn't bat for the length of time required to score to 500. I'd get bored and fall over."

Ms Knowles said the new section was devised so that ephemeral quotations could be dropped without resetting the main dictionary.

Campaign to reverse Labour schools policy

John Carvel, Education Editor

A CAMPAIGN to change Labour policy on private education is being launched by supporters of the independent schools with a full-page advertisement in today's Guardian featuring an artist's representation of a two-faced Harriet Harman, the party's social security spokeswoman.

It is accompanied by contrasting quotes from Ms Harman, opposing selection and supporting parents' right to

make the proper choice for their children's education. "We agree with the Harriet Harman on the right," it says.

The advertisement is the first shot by an association of parents called the Friends of Independent Schools, which says it plans to run a campaign up to polling day.

The name of the organisation does not appear on the advertisement, on page 11 of today's paper, which gives the address and phone numbers of the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis), a body largely supported by the

private sector. But Isis said the schools were not contributing to political activity.

"At New Labour's conference Tony Blair said he wants every child to be educated at a State School. There's nothing independent schools would like more than to keep public education. Unfortunately some politicians won't leave us alone," says the ad.

Labour was threatening to take away the charitable status of independent schools, and both Labour and the Liberal Democrats would abolish the assisted places scheme which allows nearly 40,000 children from low-income families to attend more than 400 independent schools.

"We are not asking you to change your vote. We're asking you to help us make New Labour and the Lib Dems reconsider their policies."

A Labour spokesman said: "We have been discussing with the independent schools how they could work in partnership with local state schools to make a real contribution to their communities."

Such arrangements could ensure they continued to deserve charitable status.

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A voice at the heart of Europe or 'craven capitulation?' Single currency remains conference issue dogging Tories as firm line from Major and Rifkind in docile debate is undermined by fringe attack



John Major retrieving his jacket after conducting an informal question and answer session with party chairman Brian Mawhinney and delegates

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Major sidelines sceptics

Michael White
Political Editor

JOHAN Major and Malcolm Rifkind yesterday joined forces to cajole a docile Tory conference into accepting the cabinet's wait-and-see policy for the single European currency — despite the strong groundswell of hostility among activists at Bournemouth.

In contrast to the packed and enthusiastic meetings on the fringes — attended by up to 1,000 predominantly Eurosceptical representatives — the conference debate on Europe was as tightly controlled as Labour's a week ago when key sceptics like Peter Shore were not allowed to speak.

No senior Tory sceptic surfaced to challenge the Foreign Secretary's measured defence of the Cabinet's compromise line. Nor did a single speaker urge the Prime Minister face-to-face to reject British membership of the euro this side of 2002 or — the latest sceptics' position — "in the first wave" in 1999 when he did an informal question-and-answer session in his shirt-sleeves.

"This is an issue, which if it were to go wrong, could crack wide open the European Union as we have seen it build up over the last 25 years. And if it cracked it open then it would impact on this country as well, so we need to make sure in the national interest that we have Britain's voice in this debate."

To reinforce the unity theme, which reflects a pragmatic consensus between the Cabinet's pro-European majority and the sceptics' grassroots strength — Stephen Dorrell, the moderate Health Secretary, made a speech on the conference fringes in which he called on Britain to take on all comers in its fight to deliver its vision for the EU and de-

Stating their cases on either side of the euro divide



JOHN MAJOR

"This is an issue, which if it were to go wrong, could crack wide open the European Union as we have seen it build up over the last 25 years. I could earn easy applause by immediately ruling out Britain's membership of the single currency (applause). If I did that, and I then had no British voice in this great debate that will affect us, what will I say to the British nation when they say to me 'Prime Minister, how can you protect or advance our position if you have unilaterally ruled yourself out of the discussions upon something that will affect us and affect the whole of Europe?'"



MALCOLM RIFKIND

"I know that some of you would like us to take a decision now to rule in or rule out British participation in a single currency. I respect these feelings. I want to share with you the reasoning why the Prime Minister and the Cabinet believe that a final decision at this moment would be unwise. A single currency first of all may never happen, may not happen for several years, cannot happen before 1999. The nation therefore loses nothing by deferring a decision. But we would damage our interests if we took a decision now ruling out a single currency."



NORMAN LAMONT

"There is no point in being at the heart of Europe if the heart is diseased... Europe has its own passport, its own flag, its own foreign policy. If that is not political integration towards a statehood, I don't know what is. This repulsive doctrine is the complete opposite of what Conservatives believe. It is utterly craven to say that we should go along with Europe because otherwise we would be left out. That isn't a policy, that's capitulation... Brussels is not at the heart of Europe and never will be. The reason is blindingly obvious. You only have to look at the map."



LEON BRITTAN

"Who's going to [fight battles] for us if we look as if we view our closest partners with distrust hovering upon contempt? That's the tone adopted by the Eurosceptic press and it's deadly for the real interests of this country. But the sceptics disagree... Their conclusion: we should deliver an ultimatum to our EU partners: 'Accept the Europe which we want or we'll leave...'. Their argument is riddled with holes. Who on earth would ever agree to that? We are not going down the road to a United States of Europe. What is on the agenda is not all unpalatable to Britain."

ounced moves to widen the political powers of the EU institutions. Although he cracked it open then it would impact on this country as well, so we need to make sure in the national interest that we have Britain's voice in this debate."

peers, believe could save the party from defeat next spring. The conference even managed to give Mr Rifkind a generous standing ovation after his own suave performance. Labour was quick to accuse the Tories of being "split

down the middle on Europe", but the reality of an imminent election inhibited such instinctive rebels as Lord Tebbit from trying to capture the conference from the floor, as he almost did three years ago. Instead ministers piled

on counter-charges that Labour would sell out Britain. Mr Rifkind said: "They are more concerned to be popular in Europe than to be right. So Mr Blair says that he will never be isolated in Europe as if that was some

expression of virtue. Margaret Thatcher got the British budget rebates by being prepared to be isolated."

Like most cabinet members this week he emphasised Britain's global role and traditions. "But we are part of Europe. No one can ignore the facts of geography. Our fate is intertwined with theirs." The national interest would be seriously damaged by "premature" decisions. But the fears of those calling for an immediate decision on European economic and monetary union would not be ridden over roughshod. He contrasted the Tory commitment to a referendum if necessary with Labour's refusal to give such an assurance.

The debate is not about whether we should be in or out of Europe. The debate is about what kind of European Union is right for Britain and Europe. The crucial intervention, however, was the Prime Minister's own. In his Q & A session, Mr Major argued that Europe was changing and would continue to change. "Our concern and our determination is to make sure that it changes in a way that is acceptable to the United Kingdom and not damaging to the United Kingdom."

The EU's priority should not be new political institutions but to draw in the former Soviet block states. As for the single currency, if it "goes ahead, it will have an impact in one way or another way, upon every nation in the European Union whether or not that particular country is in the single currency."

But if it failed it would make the 1992-93 collapse of the old exchange rate mechanism look like a "teddy bears' picnic". Most EU members would not be eligible to join the single currency. Lord Archer confessed to a fondness for a certain Marquise de Choclat "only allowed to be eaten when my wife is not around", while Michael Portillo opts for a hunk of Bestwick Cheddar.

Kenneth Clarke

Chancellor of the Exchequer



Progress report

A brave or reckless year, according to taste. Yet he is the Cabinet's pivotal pre-election figure — unless John Major takes anti-Chancellor advice (he won't) and replaces him with tax-cutter Peter Lilley before Budget Day, November 26. Always a bruiser in the Denis Healey league, Clarke has not trimmed with the Euro-sceptic wind as others, e.g. Michael Fielding, have done. Quite the reverse. Since Douglas Hurd's 1995 retirement left him as Public Enemy No 1 to the Tory Right and their Fleet Street allies, he has become even more outspoken. When John Major was under pressure to concede a single currency referendum this spring — the latest alarm-bell demand from the sceptics — the Chancellor came close to resignation. He believes that speaking out is the only way to maintain the Cabinet's agreed compromise to keep options open on Europe. Major's warm praise of "my friend Ken" on TV last weekend does not disguise his irritation at Clarke's provocations, even though many alleged gaffes are media-coordinated. Clarke has managed major economic decisions, notably interest rates, well, flying by the seat of his pants. But the tax-and-debt hole remains a big one for whoever wins the election, and inflation may be lurking. Meanwhile the "feel-good factor" has returned, but ministers do not get the credit — the legacy of the sterling fiasco and the Lamont-Clarke tax fiasco? Clarke has two Budget choices: the responsible, cautious one with no unjustified tax cuts (i.e. none at all) which he promises, and a cut-and-run Budget. The one would save his reputation and (like his friend, Roy Jenkins) lose the election. The other just might save the Tories.

Today's performance

His primary aim is to escape from the conference hall alive and with his reputation on. Many of his audience see him as the strongest, most credible choice to a 6th Tory term. Last year he survived with a robust speech which coyly hinted at tax cuts. This time such hints may upset jittery financial markets. But he will resist the temptation to goad them on Europe.

Prospects

Objectively grim. The new intake of Tory MPs — many of them aggressive, know-nothing young Thatcherites — are expected to make Bill Cash look like a Euro-moderate. But Clarke has done every big job in Whitehall and would be the best Blair-basher from the Opposition benches. Or, if he helps Major win and becomes a hero, he could be his successor. But don't bet on it.

Today's business

- National Heritage (speaker Virginia Bottomley)
- Defence (Michael Portillo)
- Economy (Kenneth Clarke)
- Education and Employment (Gillian Shephard)
- Address to Conference (Michael Heseltine)

Ministers get just desserts

Bournemouth 96

HAVING a Cabinet minister or a senior Conservative to dinner can be a daunting occasion, wisely observes Fiona Hodgson in her introduction to a delightful new publication launched here yesterday. Cabinet Puddings — "the recipe book that reveals the desserts that Ministers Most Desire" — is a fund-raising effort devised by Mrs Hodgson, whose husband Robin is chairman of the National Union of Conservative Associations. Among the delights we find John Major's recipe for chocolate brandy whip (geddit?).

The PM admits that it may not do much for his waistline, something that was beginning to be evident from his shirt-sleeve performance yesterday.

Lord Archer confesses to a fondness for a certain Marquise de Choclat "only allowed to be eaten when my wife is not around", while Michael Portillo opts for a hunk of Bestwick Cheddar. John Redwood, needless to say, goes for fresh fruit salad "made with English Cox's, not French Golden Delicious", while Treasury Economic Secretary Angela Knight chooses tabaglione "because it reminds me of a romance with a very romantic and dandy student". At which point, I draw a tasteful veil...

BUT not before reminding visitors to the conference in search of a cookbook more appropriate to the political mood to seek out a volume by the ever-popular Clare Lattimer. Its title? The Comfort Food Cookbook.

WALTER SWEENEY, sitting precariously on the smallest Tory majority at Westminster (he holds Vale of Glamorgan by a mere 19) seems to know something the rest of us have missed. Writing in the conference issue of the House Magazine, Sweeney announces: "Ken Clarke as Chancellor laid the foundations for Britain to be the most successful economy in Europe. I know that John Redwood will not let us down in carrying that sword forward over the coming months and years."

SPEAKING of Ken Clarke (Oranges in Syrup), and assuming that he is still Chancellor, he should also note an interview with Peter Lilley (Treadle Tarty) in the Young Conservatives' mag, Campaigner. Would you like the job of Chancellor, the interviewer asks. "It has always been my longer-term ambition to be Chancellor," replies Lilley. "I have never concealed that, least of all from Kenneth Clarke."

NOT only does John Gummer fail to declare himself in the great pudding debate, but also in his conference speech yesterday with the words: "This is a speech which will get no coverage in the press." And who am I to disagree?

NORTHERN Ireland minister, Michael Ancram, is the latest victim of the Today programme's strong-arm methods at Bournemouth. Following the foiled kidnap attempt on Stephen Dorrell (Fruit Salad with Creme Fraiche and Brulee Top) on Monday, Today heavies grabbed Ancram for a 7.10am interview on the Lisburn bombing. Straight into this studio, minister, he was held, as the door locked behind him. Through the wall Ancram listens helplessly as the voice of Jim Naughtie complains: "We're supposed to have Michael Ancram but he hasn't turned up."

Martin Keble

Federalism by stealth warning from Lamont

The Guardian Debate

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

THE former Chancellor, Norman Lamont, claimed the Tories "made a mistake" in passing the Single European Act which formally took Britain into the single market, as he condemned moves towards closer integration with Europe as "a repulsive doctrine".

The self-declared Eurosceptic called for "more honesty" in the debate over Europe as he clashed with the fiercely pro-European former Cabinet minister, Sir Leon Brittan — now vice-president of the European Commission — at a Guardian debate on whether Britain should be at the heart of Europe.

Sir Leon urged Tories to pull together on the single currency, and said that "if we can't be united on this, we don't deserve to win the general election".

Although he is strongly in favour of a single currency, he is backing John Major's wait-and-see approach.

In his only appearance on the fringe to discuss Europe, Mr Lamont stopped short of advocating that Britain should withdraw from the EU, but drew strong support from the many Eurosceptics in the audience as he set out his concerns about the dangers of "federalism by stealth".

Passing the Single European Act in 1986 was a mistake. "The idea that we are winning the argument on political union is not right. Europe has its own passport, its own flag, its own foreign policy... If that is not political integration towards statehood, I don't know what is." Moves towards a closer relationship with Europe was a repulsive doctrine which

was "the complete opposite of what Conservatives believe. The electorate must know where the buck stops."

Sir Leon said that leaving the EU would be "an economic, political and strategic disaster for Britain", and denied that there was any "inevorable tide leading to a federal Europe".

Being at the heart of Europe did not mean "passively accepting everything that our European partners want, or every new proposal from Brussels".

Mr Lamont was strongly critical of the power assumed by Brussels, and the "complete farce" of subsidiarity which was now a one-way street. "The problem is that Europe never repatriates power. Once it's there, it's gone there forever."

Relaxed Major comes up with the right answers

Even Labour admitted that it was a slick performance. Ewen MacAskill reports

JOHAN Major visited a Jemmy Bournemouth conference hall late on Tuesday night. Along with the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, and other aides, he stood on the platform, getting a feel of the hall.

According to officials, that was the extent of his rehearsal for the big Conservative conference inauguration, the Prime Minister's question-and-answer session.

He told an aide beforehand that he expected the press to be cynical about the exercise, that they would think all the questions had been selected in advance. He even referred to it during the hour-long session in which he took questions from the floor on issues that ranged across Post Office privatisation, union power, gun control

and BSE. Faced with one complicated question, he said that that proved the exercise had not been orchestrated.

Jacket off, he paced the platform, determinedly casual. Stilted and awkward in delivering speeches, now he sounded relaxed. He told an anecdote about going for a walk with Boris Yeltsin during a visit to Chequers, and he persuaded Mr Yeltsin without too much trouble to drop into the local.

It was closed. A Russian security man knocked on the door and shouted: "It is the President of Russia." A call came back: "And I'm the Kaiser." The conference liked it and the journalists, some of whom had heard it half a dozen times, agreed his delivery was getting better.

That would have been a good point to stop. Dr Ma-

whinney did the Prime Minister no favours by taking more questions. Finishing with one on the impact of BSE on farmers.

But Mr Major had done enough. He was given a standing ovation that was more genuine and warmer than the one that normally follows his end-of-the-week conference speech.

When it was over, an aide reported back that the mood among the journalists had been generally favourable. Even the Labour Party privately acknowledged later that it had been a smooth performance.

The object of the exercise, apart from playing to Mr Major's strength, was not so much to impress those in the hall but television viewers, the voters, those who normally find the people who attend Tory conferences a turn-off. It would not have harmed him.

At the end, Mr Major said he would do it again next year.

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Russian military not planning mutiny, analysts say

Minister confronts disgruntled forces

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

THE Russian defence minister flies into Vladivostok today to confront a growing crisis in his demoralised, often unpaid, armed forces which could end in widespread disintegration, if not outright mutiny.

Vladivostok, home of the former Soviet Pacific Fleet, was the scene last month of a one-day strike and blockade by dockyard workers, which will be repeated on a wider national scale at the end of the month. Meanwhile crime is reportedly on the increase among servicemen, including senior officers, and draft dodging is rife.

Independent confirmation of the crisis facing the newly appointed minister, General Igor Rodionov — whose predecessor, General Pavel Grachev, was accused of condoning corruption and accepting bribes — came yesterday from the authoritative London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"The armed forces are voting with their feet," said the

deputy director Rose Gottemoeller, presenting the latest edition of the institute's Military Balance. "Troops are selling their weapons."

But the institute does not believe Russian forces are on the brink of mutiny, as suggested recently by President Boris Yeltsin's security chief, General Alexander Lebed. "It's an extremely serious problem but there are no signs that troops will drive into the Kremlin in tanks," Ms Gottemoeller said.

Gen Lebed's warning, she argued, should be seen in the context of disagreement between the defence and finance ministries over the size of next year's military budget — which the institute calculates has fallen by 45 per cent in real terms since 1992.

Gen Lebed left Nato headquarters in Brussels yesterday after his first visit to the West, having impressed officials with his approach to the contentious issue of Nato's expansion into eastern Europe. "Our feeling was that here we had a man with whom you could negotiate," said one official.

In response to lobbying by Gen Lebed and Gen Rodionov,

President Yeltsin has promised to make military reforms a priority. Earlier this week, the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, proposed a new tax to help the army. He has also promised to revise its draft 1997 budget.

Russian troops complain of being underfed, poorly clothed, and unpaid for months at a time.

The collapse of morale has been aggravated by the humiliations of the Chechnya campaign, in which 30,000 people are estimated to have died in efforts to gain control of the province. "The best the Russian armed forces can now do is to contain rebel military action... until a longer term political solution is found," the institute says.

● The annual value of the worldwide arms trade has stabilised at about \$20 billion — less than half the 1980s average — according to the institute. Most of the reduction occurred in former Soviet and Warsaw Pact markets. The United States has emerged as the dominant supplier, exporting arms valued at \$10 billion a year, followed by Britain, France and Russia, then China and Germany.



Striking Serbian taxi drivers mass in central Belgrade yesterday, demanding tax cuts and cheaper imports of second-hand cars to renew their fleets

Opera's opening chorus marred by disharmony

The Teatro Real, after a pricey revamp, prepares to face its public: Adela Gooch in Madrid reports

CHANDELIERS crashing to the floor, an architect slumping to his death on stage, huge cost overruns and bitter political infighting — Madrid's revamped Royal Opera house, due to open next year as one of the largest in Europe, has been haunted by such phantoms since the project began.

Even the work chosen for the premiere has caused controversy. It was to have been Wagner's Parsifal, with Plácido Domingo in the star role. But the conservative government decided a home-grown composer was more appropriate and, after sacking the opera director appointed by the former socialist administration, opted for Manuel de Falla's La Vida Breve instead, with Parsifal to follow.

As well as an opera house, the Teatro Real has a barracks, the lower house of parliament and a dance hall.

The revamp was one of many grandiose projects designed to celebrate 1992 — the anniversary of the discovery of America.

The difficulties soon began to mirror those of the original construction, which lasted more than 30 years and was hampered by a chronic shortage of funds.

The opera house was opened in 1850, patronised by Queen Isabella II, herself something of an opera buff: her corsets were once found on the floor of the royal box.

After frequent closures, the building was turned into a concert hall in 1965.

The projected cost of returning it to its original use was first put at 5,000 million pesetas (\$25 million). Four times that amount has been spent. In 1992, one of the architects had a heart attack and died while showing a group of journalists around. Last year the cen-

tral hall's crystal chandelier smashed to the ground. Equally spectacular have been the political battles between conservatives and socialists.

The new government is committed to completing the restoration, although it moved swiftly to fire the old board and appoint its own. The opening has been set for October 18, 1997.

The artistic director, Stéphane Lissner, who survived the purge, announced ambitious plans this week.

He hopes the opera house will attract singers with artistic prestige rather than millionaire paymasters. No one will receive more than 3 million pesetas for a performance. Mr Lissner, largely responsible for making a success of the Châtelet opera house in Paris, hopes the top Spanish stars — Domingo, Montserrat Caballé, José Carreras and Alfredo Kraus — will perform.

The soprano Teresa Berganza will run opera studios to train new Span-

ish singers. Mr Lissner also plans to organise late night performances aimed at young people and to promote Spain's operetta genre, the zarzuela.

Gibson criticises point out that, unlike Barcelona, Madrid has little operatic tradition. The Barcelona Liceu burned down but is being rebuilt and will provide stiff competition.

Budget austerity will threaten subsidies, and the opening may be marred by building work in the square behind the opera house.

Supporters of the opera house argue that the revamp has been comparatively cheap and that state-of-the-art installations will attract international stars.

Others mutter that they would not be surprised to see flamenco singers performing there.

Turks up arms budget

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

TURKEY plans to spend \$98.5 billion over the next 30 years on defence — roughly double its current expenditure on what is already the second largest military force in Nato.

An official said yesterday that the government would spend about \$3.2 billion each year up to 2030 for projects to modernise land, sea and air forces.

"Turkey is already spending about \$1.6 billion to \$1.9 billion every year for defence and we are targeting to double appropriations allocated to the defence industry through increases in the defence industry fund and the budget," he said.

Land forces would receive 750 helicopters, 3,000 tanks and 48,000 other vehicles. The navy's share would include 14 frigates, nine submarines and 35 amphibious landing boats. The air force could expect 640 planes and 440 air defence

weapons systems. The foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, said after a meeting with the Turkish General Staff that the programme would involve foreign partnerships and the private sector.

One aim is to expand the defence industry in Turkey, which currently meets only 20 per cent of the armed forces' needs.

A strong military force has always been seen as essential to meet potential threats on Turkey's borders. It has had difficult relations over the years with Russia and Iran to the east, Syria and Iraq to the south and Bulgaria and Greece to the west.

Meanwhile, the latest Aegean brushfire was extinguished yesterday when Athens returned the Turkish pilot of an F-16 jet it crashed after being intercepted by Greek fighters on Tuesday. His co-pilot is still missing.

The incident happened on the last day of joint military exercises in the southern Aegean between Greece and

the Greek-Cyriot controlled government in Nicosia.

Greece claimed more than 50 air space violations since the exercises started on Monday. Turkey responded that the exercises were themselves a provocation likely to increase tensions.

Britain's special envoy to Cyprus, Sir David Hannay, said before attending meetings in Ankara yesterday that it was "worrying that both sides on the island continue an arms race".

Meanwhile on the eastern flank, a Turkish offensive against Kurdish separatist fighters has spilled over into Iraq.

A total of 255 guerrillas are reported to have been killed in four days, while 11 Turkish soldiers were said to have died.

A military statement yesterday said that the Turkish air force had killed 64 Kurdish separatist fighters and injured 27 in bombing raids on a camp at Zap, 12 miles into Iraq.

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Australia set to eradicate rabbits with killer virus

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A bus ride to brotherhood

Gore supporters quietly await the new millennium



Spike Lee, director of *Get On The Bus*, the first of a wave of black pride movies. It was made wholly with black money

Spike Lee's film about last year's Million Man March is challenging negative stereotypes of black males. Jonathan Freedland in Washington reports

THE Million Man March is heading for the movies. Director Spike Lee, actor Wesley Snipes, lawyer Johnnie Cochran and dozens of black celebrities have joined forces to celebrate an event hailed as a landmark in African-American history with a film. *Get On The Bus* follows 12 black men as they trek from Los Angeles to Washington DC, the first anniversary of the march. The film is the first of a series of black men converged on the capital for the largest demonstration in US history. Black commentators are lauding the film as a breakthrough which shatters Hollywood stereotypes of black males as killers and gangsters. The 12 fictional marchers include a father anxious to bond with his teenage son, a gay couple, a cop sick of seeing blacks kill each other and a devout Muslim. "It's a combustible mixture of men," said Lee. The marchers set out as strangers "but emerge three days and thousands of miles later as brothers". The film's promoters say. With 75 per cent of the action confined to the inside of the bus, publicists promise an intense movie — a "black Twelve Angry Men". The film is generating considerable pride, as the entire \$2.4 million (£1.5 million) budget was raised by individual



Last year's Million Man March brought thousands of African Americans to Washington

black male entrepreneurs. Among the 15 investors — who gave \$100,000 or \$200,000 each — were Snipes, fellow actor Danny Glover and Will Smith, basketball star Charles Smith and Mr Cochran, O.J. Simpson's chief defence lawyer. "It says to African-American men, we can come together, we can do this," Mr Cochran said. "And it says to others in the community, we should be more united." *Get On The Bus* does not skirt the controversy surrounding the Million Man March, organised by the black separatist Louis Farrakhan. The film's only white character — played by stand-up comedian Richard Belzer — is a Jewish bus driver who fears he is indirectly aiding the anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader. Mr Farrakhan will appear in the film, but only in news footage showing his address to the march. "We all know what happened at the march," said Lee, whose films *She's Gotta Have It*, *Jungle Fever* and *Malcolm X* have been accused of polarising American audiences on racial lines. "I didn't feel that we needed to dramatise the speeches. What is important is what brings these three different African-American men and what happens to them on this journey." Just like the march, *Get On The Bus* is a men-only affair. At the time, organisers said the march had to be for men, because it was they who were "in trouble" — with one in three black American males either in jail or in the court system. To make the film, the cast and crew staged their own journey — a 17-day voyage from LA through Tennessee

Forget 1996, the vice-president and his challenger are thinking of 2000. Martin Walker in Washington reports

BILLED as the first presidential debate of the 21st century, last night's confrontation between the United States vice-president, Al Gore, and his Republican challenger, Jack Kemp, was watched less for its impact on this year's election race than as a foretaste of the contest in 2000. Each man will end this election season as his party's front-runner for the next contest, a status awarded both by precedent and by party protocol. Last night's debate before a national audience estimated at 50 million was the perfect showcase for the next presidential contenders. "The spotlight on this debate is only partly about 1996 — it is even more about the dress rehearsal for the millennial election of the year 2000," Stan Greenberg, the Democratic pollster, said yesterday. Mr Gore tried to discount such speculation: "It is of limited use to try to predict what could happen in either party four years from now, and I'm not spending any time on that. The old saying that six months is a long time in politics is applicable here." His protestations would be more convincing were it not for the "Gore-2000" and "Twelve More Years" signs that are starting to appear on the campaign trail, and the way that President Bill Clinton has boosted his running mate with an unprecedentedly high profile and workload. Last night's confrontation in St Petersburg, Florida, also carried an edge of personal drama, based on a curious reversal of styles. Mr Kemp, loose and ebullient, a working-class hero who first made his name on the football field and is comfortable in the inner cities, preaches the promise of American opportunity with Democratic fervour. Mr Gore is a patrician by birth, the son of a senator and a product of elite private schools. Despite intensive coaching by his handlers, he still appears as stiff and self-controlled as a Republican banker. This reflects the way the parties themselves are realigning their support in the evolving US class system. The Democratic Party is moving beyond its old urban roots to the suburbs and the new yuppie elites which Mr Clinton has courted so assiduously. The Republican Party has grown beyond the country

club and business traditions to become also the party of the populist South and the religious right. Those trends will be intensified if Mr Gore and Mr Kemp do emerge as standard bearers. Indeed, the real political drama of the next four years could hinge on their success in consolidating their current positions. A Gore candidacy would solidify President Clinton's attempt to move the Democrats to the electable centre and the suburban middle class. This will mean facing down the traditional Democratic leaders in Congress, from the protectionist congressman Dick Gephardt to the radicals who look to Jesse Jackson. A Kemp candidacy would signal a Republican Party ever less content to allow the Democrats to keep their electoral base in the cities, the ethnic minorities and among blue-collar, white voters. A passionate believer in supply-side economics who holds the magical growth effects of tax cuts will eventually tame the US budget deficit, Mr Kemp is determined to fight for the black and Hispanic vote on equal terms, preaching enterprise as the way out of the ghetto. Mr Kemp and Mr Gore have been personal friends since

The spotlight on this debate is only partly about this year — it is even more about the dress rehearsal for the millennial election

they served together in Congress, and each had to perform last night against his own nature. Mr Kemp had to restrain his verbosity and his tendency to drift into arcane theories about restoring the gold standard. Mr Gore had to engage and hold his usual wooden style on camera, while restraining his own delight in the scientific detail of global warming, and the intricacies of bureaucratic reform. Yet both had the urge to win, and had practised for the debate assiduously. Mr Gore has carried with him for the past week a card with a quote from Mr Kemp in 1983, warning that the Clinton-Gore economic policy would "destroy jobs, increase the deficit and cripple growth". The Gore mantra is now "Wrong, wrong, and wrong again, Jack Kemp", a line tailored to work as well in November 2000 as it could this year.

Australia set to eradicate rabbits with killer virus

AUSTRALIA has declared an biological war on an estimated 200 million rabbits. The rabbit population was first exposed to the calicivirus disease near Wagga Wagga, where the New South Wales agriculture minister, Richard Amery, released 20 infected rabbits into the wild. Farmers blame rabbits for causing damage to crops and driving indigenous animals and plants to the verge of extinction. "It's probably the best news the environment has had in 20 years," said Mick Keogh, a farmers' representative. Government officials say the virus will eventually be released at 280 sites in all Australia's states and territories. Calicivirus kills rabbits in 12 to 24 hours by causing internal bleeding. The virus was first detected in Europe in 1984. The disease is expected to eradicate up to 80 per cent of the rabbit population within two years. Rabbits currently outnumber humans in Australia by around 10 to one.

Mrs Netanyahu's dirty linen gets second public washing

SARA Netanyahu, Israel's first lady and the prime minister's third wife, has been plunged into her second public scandal in six months. It was revealed yesterday that her former husband is to publish a book about their marriage, which promises to reveal even more than the outraged nanny who left Mrs Netanyahu's employment this summer after being accused of burning the soup. If Nannygate was a tasty appetiser for the Israeli tabloids, Doron Neuberger's book bids fair to be a juicy ribstake. The story broke on Israel's Channel Two television. Yesterday, Yediot Aharonoth, Israel's most popular daily, was off and running. Mr Neuberger, it said, is a kibbutznik who was married to Sara for six years, and had dated her for two years before the marriage. The couple were divorced in 1987.



Sara Netanyahu: Nannygate thrust her into the spotlight

of the book on computer disk. According to his friends, Neuberger possesses tapes and letters of his ex-wife that support his portrayal of an irresponsible woman. He claims that Sara's proximity to secret and classified documents could endanger the state. According to Yediot Aharonoth, Mr Neuberger approached a lawyer, who approached a publicist, who approached the prime minister's office. The would-be author then received a warning that "whoever throws a bomb into his neighbour's yard should expect one to be thrown his way too." The paper went on: "The attempts to dissuade continue. Several days later, Sara Netanyahu tried to no avail to contact her former husband. Netanyahu's lawyers, Yitzhak Molcho and David Shimron, then approached him. "Neuberger claims they offered him sums of money to bury the book. Sources at the prime minister's office claim the contrary, saying Neuberger came to them at his own initiative several days after the elections and demanded \$1 million not to publish the book. After negotiating with him, the prime minister's associates decided not to give in to his demands." So is Doron Neuberger a patriot or a cad? Will Sara sue? And did they have any household help? This newspaper will reveal all — as soon as Yediot Aharonoth gets its hands on the manuscript. This land is for peace, page 9



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Complex societal-like behaviour can be produced by "minimalist" models consisting of simple rules and equations embedded in small computer programs. Models for mayhem OnLine G2 page 12

When the economy boils

But for an election we'd be talking tax increases

WILL KENNETH CLARKE raise taxes in next month's budget? No, of course he won't. Although the wily Mr Clarke — who speaks today at Bournemouth to a party baying for tax cuts — keeps telling us that his budget judgment will be driven by fiscal prudence rather than politics, everyone presumes the opposite: that he is merely dousing our expectations so that, come budget day, he can unexpectedly conjure up cuts of 1p to 1.5p in the pound to whoops of joy up and down the country. But if the budget was about running the economy rather than winning an election there would be a strong case either for tax increases or for the Chancellor to reintroduce the "regulator" empowering him to change taxes between budgets. As the Institute for Fiscal Studies tells us in its annual Green Budget exercise (carried out with Goldman Sachs), public borrowing in 1996/97 is heading for £26.2 billion — a cool £4 billion above the last budget estimate.

This would take the PSBR to 3.5 per cent of GDP — well above the 3 per cent Maastricht ceiling which the UK will want to undershoot whether we join Europe's single currency or not. The IFS says the Budget will forecast the PSBR to drop to 2.8 per cent of GDP in 1997/98 but only by "unprecedentedly tight control of public spending" unlikely to happen in practice. The IFS believes Mr Clarke will announce tax cuts "funded" by unlikely cuts in public spending — leaving whoever wins the election to clean up the mess.

What Britain absolutely doesn't need now is tax cuts. They would threaten an unusually rosy outlook for the economy. The problem is that the recovery is far too biased towards consumption. If the fires of consumer spending are stoked up at the expense of investment and exports then the real prospect of a sustained recovery will have been wantonly thrown away and the Conserva-

tives will notch up their third economic disaster in 17 years (the first two being the unnecessarily severe recessions at the start and end of the 1980s). Of course we all like tax cuts, but there's a time and a place and it's not now. Consider. Real incomes (after allowing for tax and inflation) are already rising at 4 per cent. Retail spending is on a roll and the full effect of interest rate reductions are still to come. There will be an overhang of £20 billion next year when the building societies converting to banks distribute their capital to shareholders. No one knows what will happen but if a third of this £20 billion is spent rather than saved it will have a huge effect on the economy. Has there ever been a better time for taking powers to introduce tax increases just in case they are necessary? What the economy desperately needs is more investment and exports not an import-hungry spending spree. If businessmen, who have been notoriously reluctant to invest, believe the recovery will end in tears next year then they will be doubly reluctant to lay down new plant without which long-term non-inflationary growth is impossible.

After four years of moderate growth, the economy is poised to expand by 3 per cent and possibly by well over 4 per cent next year if the expansionary forces happen together. We should be trying to grow for as long as we can at a sustainable rate of between 2.5 per cent and 3 per cent. So far Mr Clarke has hardly put a foot wrong in macro-economic management since (and because of) the enforced devaluation of 1992. The heavy guns of the Conservative Party — including Mr Major yesterday — have thrown their support behind his pro-Europe stance. If they gave similar support for an economic rather than a political budget then posterity — if not the electors — would be surprisingly grateful.

An utter lack of understanding

The letter to Mr Major was not a stunt, but a serious appeal

THE joint appeal by Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown for the issues surrounding the Hamilton case to be heard by a Tribunal of Inquiry rather than Sir Gordon Downey was a serious one deserving a considered response by the Prime Minister. It is a view that has now been supported by a diverse range of voices, including Geoffrey Robertson QC, The Times, Vernon Bogdanor, the Oxford Professor of Government, Andrew Neil, the former editor of the Sunday Times, and Doug Hoyle, who is a member of the very body in which Mr Major still has such faith. But Mr Major did not give a considered response. He instantly rejected the idea while Central Office dismissed the Ashdown/Blair letter as "a stunt".

By treating the appeal with such contempt Mr Major has ensured that MPs will have to raise the subject rather more publicly in parliament next week. The Prime Minister's preference for a quick, quiet, limited inquiry is understandable, but plagued by difficulties. One is that several of the members of Sir Gordon's committee are themselves compromised. Mr Hoyle's constituency party received £500 from Ian Greer and he has conceded that he must step down. Sir David Mitchell must surely also consider whether it would be appropriate for him to hear any case against Hamilton, his former PPS. Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith should also consider whether he would command public confidence having taken part in an improper conversation

with the whips office about neutering the previous Hamilton hearing. We publish today further concerns about the way the committee's chairman, Tony Newton, ensured that Mr Al Fayed's previous complaints were never fully aired before MPs.

Sir Gordon's committee must themselves wonder whether they are now up to the task in hand. Here are just some of the areas they should consider: the conduct of the Tory Trade and Industry Committee between 1985 and 1990; the conduct of Tim Smith and Hamilton in accepting cash for questions; the extent to which Smith and Hamilton were vetted before being appointed to sensitive ministerial posts; Hamilton's conduct as a minister; the extra-parliamentary income of Hamilton dating back nearly 10 years; all payments made by Ian Greer to any MPs over the past 15 years; the relationship between Prime Minister and Mr Greer; the relationship between five named Tory MPs and Greer; the nature of the Lord Chancellor's assurances to the House of Lords; whether Hamilton lied to Mr Heseltine; the ethics of MPs accepting secret payment for acting on behalf of constituents; why Mr Major did not demand Smith's resignation as soon as he knew of his cash from Mr Fayed.

This list is by no means exhaustive. But it does indicate why a call for a Tribunal of Inquiry is no mere "stunt". And it does indicate why the Prime Minister's contemptuous dismissal of it is itself beneath contempt.

The Taliban menace in Kabul

Backing the fundamentalists is fundamentally wrong

NOW WE KNOW why the US has been so keen to establish contact with the fanatical Taliban militants in Afghanistan. Indeed it was in such a hurry last week that a team of diplomats almost flew into Kabul. The trip was only cancelled at the last moment when someone realised that it might not mesh too well with the image of Taliban militia pistol-whipping innocent women for not covering up completely.

The State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns has now managed to straighten things out. Contact with the Taliban, he explains, has nothing to do with unworthy motives like backing the Afghan (Sunni) fundamentalists because they are opposed by the Iranian (Shia) fundamentalists — far less because the ousted government forces and their allies are being supported by Russia. It is instead a golden opportunity to "influence them" (the Taliban) and have some positive effect on their

"thinking". John Holtzman, deputy chief of the US mission in Islamabad (widely believed to be the CIA's station chief) is said to be eager to discuss points of dogma, sexual morality and clothing with the Taliban.

Backing the Taliban may turn out to be premature for a different reason, after the setback which they suffered yesterday in the Salang Pass. It is unlikely that the tables will be reversed completely upon them, but the ex-government with its new Uzbek ally General Dostum will now dig in through the winter, posing a permanent challenge. The unfortunate people of Afghanistan will continue to suffer twice over from having first been occupied by Soviet forces and then liberated by the feuding mujahedin. Pakistan, with tacit US approval, has created a new monster to join those already in the field. But at least, so Chief Holtzman may argue, it is "our monster."



Letters to the Editor

A conference sketch

THE removal of offenders' ability to drive by disqualifying them from driving for non-motoring offences, as announced by the Home Secretary (Conservative in Requirement, October 9), needs to be questioned for two reasons. Is it workable, and is it an acceptable way of punishing people?

On the first count, it is very unlikely that people with convictions for offences unrelated to driving, like burglary, will be seriously incapacitated by a driving disqualification. They will simply drive whilst disqualified. Secondly, this measure marks an important philosophical departure in sentencing. A driving disqualification for offences unrelated to driving could be the thin end of a very sinister wedge.

Our government, along with many other public bodies, regulates access to many important services and rights of citizens. If this concept of removing access to a service for an unrelated matter was to be extended, who might it take us? Could, for instance, passports be taken away as part of a punishment? It is obvious the policy has not been properly thought through.

Mary Honeyball, Secretary, Association of Chief Officers of Probation, 212 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ.

DOES Michael Howard's plan to take away the driving licences of criminals mean that if they are over 65 they will have their bus passes confiscated? Brian Parkin, 29 Adela Avenue, New Malden KT3 6LF.

DR Mawhinney introduced John Major to the Tory conference as "the most honest man in British politics". Being in mind that "Honest John" has led the most politically corrupt and morally degenerate government in living memory, was embarrassed into setting up Nolan because of the behaviour of his MPs, and was less than truthful over the Scott Report, I was wondering if Dr Mawhinney could be sued under the Trades Descriptions Act. John Henderson, Wishing Tree Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN38 9LA.

WHEN Michael Forsyth proudly told his constituents that a foreign company was opening a factory in Scotland, and suggested that it would not have done so if we had a minimum wage, he was applauded. Should we be so pleased that foreign firms will only invest in Britain as long as we provide cheap labour? George McMillan, 207 North Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7AF.

I WOULD be grateful if you would refrain from printing such large and colourful pictures of Mrs Thatcher (Front page, October 9) as this puts me off my breakfast and upsets my five-month-old son. Christopher Maris, 3/Q Peabody Avenue, London SW14 4AU.

HOW interesting to see the Secretary of State for Wales upholding the Union by brandishing a flag which contains no Welsh element. Annabelle Harle, 4 Ovington Terrace, Cardiff CF5 1GF.

ON the Tory Party web page, under the "how to join" section (http://www.conservative-party.org.uk/howtojoin/howtojoin.htm), there is a quote from Janine Kitchen: "I joined the Conservatives because I believe in their kind of Britain. Also, I enjoy meeting other people, something which is so easy to do in the friendly atmosphere of the Conservative Party." Under the Scottish section (http://www.conservative-party.org.uk/scotland/join/index.html), Tracey MacInnes says: "I joined the Conservatives because I believe in their kind of Scotland. Also, I enjoy meeting other people, something which... (etc)." Similar, but different. Paul Reeves, 8 Hale Street, Cambridge CB4 3EZ.

Why the police force is no place for any self-respecting female

FROM January to June of this year I worked as a member of the Police Support Staff with my local force. Before I joined, I was offered the following advice regarding sexual harassment from a close family friend, an ex-police sergeant: "The proper way to deal with any touching you don't feel comfortable with is politely but firmly to make it known that you don't like it. Never complain — this won't gain you any respect."

I started work determined to keep an open mind. I was aware of media interest in police culture and particularly their treatment of women. Whilst I was never at the "cutting edge" of any sexual harassment, I witnessed plenty of incidents that confirmed to me the stereotypical image of the police force as a masculine stronghold with absolutely no time for women.

For example, one female officer asked to be put on light duties (as was her entitlement) on becoming pregnant. This was seen as weak and unnecessary — never mind that one job from an elbow during a street fracas could do great damage. Obscene language was commonplace. All women officers and members of the public, were "larts". Banter of a sexual nature was regarded as the norm, although male officers were aware that they were not supposed to overstep the mark. One sergeant, a kind

and thoughtful man, actually believed that female officers missed the more "rigorous" banter that had taken place in the past. I can assure any female officer who was comfortable within the police culture. As you report (inside story, October 9), most put up with the comments and innuendo, even joining in at times, so as not to appear "soft".

Yes, many incidents may be viewed as trivial, and yes, female officers need to be able to cope with the rigors of the streets. But a culture that constantly demeans women, constantly views them as second-class citizens, should not be tolerated. Name and address supplied.

WHAT the authors of your article on police sexual harassment did not examine (and which to the best of my recollection was never examined four years ago when the DPP was prosecuted and resigned for kerb-crawling) was this: what effect does the sexist behaviour and attitudes within the police force have on crime? We have a steadily growing rate of reported rapes, and yet decreasing numbers of rapists are brought to trial and found guilty. How effective can the police be when they have the same opinions and socialisation as the criminal? Eileen Hunter, Alliance Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11.

Malls mauled

PAUL Barker's hymn of praise to the shopping mall falls into the trap of equating popularity with worth (Living on the edge, October 9). By that token, cocaine dealers would get the Queen's Award for Industry. He does not address the two problems presented to society by the growth of out-of-town shopping. Firstly, every green-field development turns its back on the dereliction it leaves behind and which the rest of us have to pay to clean up.

Secondly, these temples of consumption serve to increase the grip of multiple chain stores at the expense of small businesses and entrepreneurs to whom he offers the sop of the car-boot sale.

Car was to be extended, where "panhandlers, alikes and sad people" are banished is neither sustainable nor desirable. If even Mr Gummer can see this, I am surprised that Mr Barker cannot. Paul Chandler, The Hop Kilns, Suckley, Worcs WR6 5EH.



That inbuilt sense of rhythm

I AGREE with Keith Burstein's views on accessible music (Provocations, October 9). But why normal people find it accessible is more fundamental than he suggests. Most "sounds in nature" vibrate anything but tonally. The harmonies used in orthodox music and the harmonies of instrumental sounds are "tonal" because our hearing mechanism selected them: it reacted to these artefacts in an unusual way. The appeal of tonal music is therefore in-built and spontaneous.

Schoenberg's ideas were quite illogical. One cannot

write atonal music using a tonal scale; one cannot tell our hearing mechanism to abandon that which is inherent. The problem in devising atonal scales, or atonal instruments — most pitched percussion instruments are — if people do want to create atonal music. Incidentally, the first three overtones of instrumental sounds do not produce a chord; the third, fourth and fifth harmonics have the same pitches as a major chord. (Prof) Sir James Beaumont, Queens' College, Cambridge CB3 9ET.

Injecting sense into the flu plan

EACH year our Chief Medical Officer, Kenneth Calman, states that the "wrong" people are taking up influenza immunisation, and that only those at risk from pre-existing illness should apply ("Healthy" urged not to take flu vaccines, October 8).

This is in marked contrast to France (the home of Pasteur) where in early October an announcement was made on TV channels that the vaccine is now ready and recommending that the whole population request it.

While the injection does not always prevent influenza, widespread immunisation is the only possible strategy for preventing the serious epidemics which have occurred in the past. Initial higher costs to the NHS might well be counterbalanced by reduced hospital costs for serious complications of influenza, such as pneumonia. (Dr) Pamela Aylett, 4 Nepean Street, London SW15 5DW.

THE "worried well" who are taking up 25 per cent of the flu vaccines may be worrying about someone other than themselves. What happens when the carer of an elderly person or a child at risk becomes ill? Sara Clarke, 45 Church Street, Hayfield, High Peak SK23 2JE.

YOU do not mention flu-jab side-effects such as have laid low several of my friends. And I find it ironic that your report apparently advocates the jab for those with diabetes, in view of the consideration reported in Nature that a vaccine is just as likely as a virus to trigger the immune system to attack the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. H Clarke, Furnell Avenue, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1TX.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Corruption that goes to the roots

THE measures advocated by Vernon Bogdanor (Put the House in Order, October 9) are necessary to deal with the immediate consequences of the Hamilton/Greer affair, but they amount to treating one of the symptoms rather than the disease itself.

The root cause of this sorry episode is our persistence in the undemocratic and outmoded "first-past-the-post" electoral system, with its tendency to produce single-party majority governments. Other overdue reforms, such as a written constitution and a Freedom of Information Act, would help to curb the governments' arbitrary behaviour. The most urgent requirement, however, is the adoption of a fully proportional voting system. Given our voting patterns, this would in all probability give rise to coalition governments. These are less tempted to arrogant or unlawful behaviour, if only because cover-up operations are so much harder to mount when they

require a conspiracy across party boundaries. David Ratford, Wisborough Cottage, Wisborough, West Sussex RH14 0DZ.

I READ with interest (Leader, October 8) that Tim Smith might become chair of the Public Accounts Committee. All this despite his confession that he took cash for questions from Al Fayed and asked dozens of questions in the House on behalf of his clients. We must never let him forget that he has used his public office for personal financial gain. New voters in my constituency tell me that the "cash for questions" MPs are one of the main reasons why they have no interest in politics. They see politics as cheap and dirty — due in no small part to Smith's actions. Alastair Hudson, Labour (Barnes constituency), 31 Walk Wood Rise, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

A Country Diary

CEIDE FIELDS, CO MAYO, IRELAND: A day of wind and sun — almost like a day of high summer but with that autumn nip — and we are on the north Mayo coast. No stripped limestone barren hills here. What a dramatic change of landscape from green fields by Ballycastle to brown bogland, the blanket bog of north-west Mayo and here. In this one corner, a field of two hectares or five acres. To stand in this field and observe is suddenly to realise that we are seeing the landscape as it was 5,000 years ago because not a single stone has been moved since the bog was wrapped all. The last touch, before excavation, was by the finger of a Stone Age human being. We think how 200 generations of farmers could have changed this field through 50 centuries. Elsewhere and throughout our island we have wedge tombs, passage graves as ancient as this patch but the countryside surrounding them has been transformed

irrevocably, beyond thought, perhaps beyond even imagination. We could never have known except for the preserving bog, turf-cutting and excavation. Time can be almost incalculable so that ancient peoples can seem light years away. Yet, as we step down from the bog into the exposed field, and each step down is a step back in time, we are struck by the similarity of this oldest enclosed farmland in Europe to the small stone-walled fields of Ireland's west. Here cattle grazed, here was a pen for calves, here a house and hearth (carbon-dated to 3000 BC). Here was a peaceful people who co-operated, clearing primeval forest, shaping land into fields, heaving a quarter of a million tons of stone to make dividing walls. Before the construction of the pyramids, these fields were deserted. Close to 3700 high, Ceide Cliffs, assailed by sea winds, slinging rains, held for us in a perfect time capsule, the blanket bog. SARAH POYNTZ

Diary Matthew Norman

A YEAR after Alan Howarth's defection, New Labour celebrates a new recruit. Apply for the PR party, it's the grandpappy of spin himself...

Tories prove that small isn't beautiful

Commentary Hugo Young

THE Tories are becoming smaller. Small in number, small in mind. The more solemnly they talk about the nation, the smaller the nation seems to get.

David Heathcote-Amory's meticulous explication of his views on the single currency sat oddly in this company. The occasion's political ancestry was unmistakable: this was the Tory version of the Tribune Rally at Labour conferences 1976-1983...

Union is nothing but a conspiracy against the British, and that the only way to win the next election is to come out with this loud and clear, denouncing in perpetuity any further move towards integration.

by occasional blash about the Pacific Rim, for the party wants to have it both ways. It doesn't want to be called the Little England party, and hates the charge of xenophobia.

In its guts, the Tory party is getting ready for a period in opposition when every division will be triumphantly expressed

What has happened to the Cabinet is that it has made a choice: either we divide the country between ourselves and the Palestinians or else we go on suppressing them.

Last stop for the travelling people



George Monbiot

BRITAIN'S Romanies always knew there was something fishy about the Government's promise to let them establish their own sites, and last month the European Court confirmed it.

on electricity, then sell leases to the Romanies for £14,000. The residents were astonished, but found that the council has acted within the law. Without permission, the land was worth no more than its agricultural value.

At the Independent on Sunday, confusion reigns. On Tuesday, during his resignation speech to staff, outgoing editor Peter Wilby received two messages from Charlie Wilson, Monty Montgomery's fey Glaswegian henchman, instructing him not to reveal his successor, Rosie Keefe, until she is in his car.

A CONVERSATION has been overheard in Downing Street. "You know James Cran quit the Government to spend more time with his constituency?" said one Tory delegate to another.

THE death of Brendan Woolhead, the man wrongly assumed to be an IRA bomber in the aftermath of February's Aldwych bus explosion, has caused some newspapers grief.

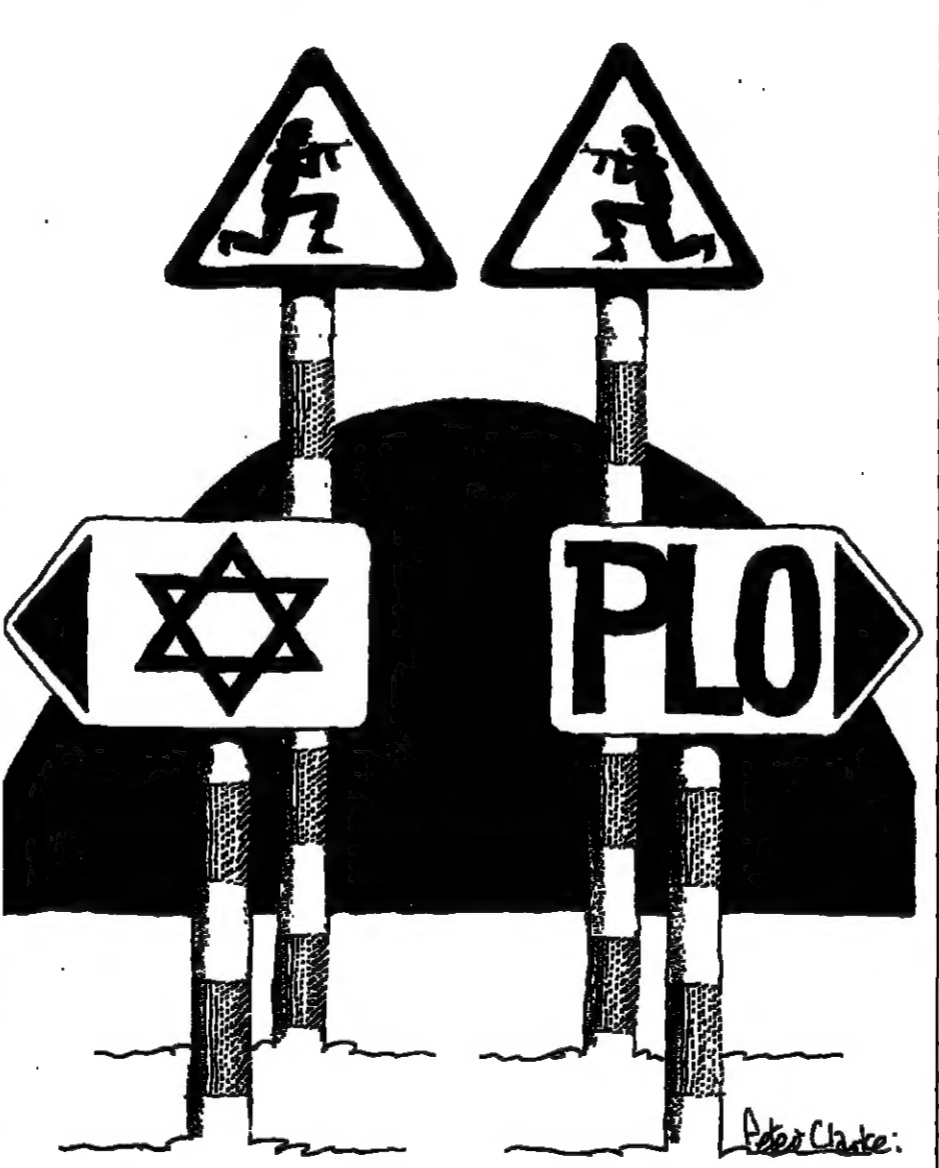
IN what could just be an internet myth, news from a Salt Lake City burns unit races through cyberspace. "In retrospect, lighting the match was my big mistake," said Eric Tomaszewski, who was hurt with his friend Kiki Fox...

A BOOK of Lady Thatcher's greatest speeches has been postponed. According to a HarperCollins press officer, it is pure coincidence that the book will now be published next year, immediately after the last possible date for the election.



This land is for peace

It is time to rethink the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a real-estate dispute, argues Amos Oz



THE Israeli hawks may have a point in criticising the Oslo agreements; being interim agreements, they contain endless potential friction areas. With patches of Palestinian autonomous territories punctuated by fortified Israeli settlements...

whose land it is can be resolved through a compromise. The conflict over whose faith prevails is insoluble. There are a few places in this ancient land which ought to be accessible to worshippers of all faiths but not controlled by the armed forces of any one of them.

of both is almost certain to prove lethal. At this point in time, most Palestinians, as well as the majority of the Israelis, know that the country is going to be partitioned between the two nations.

Why I refused to call Esther

Television is joining the tabloids in making criminals into celebrities: that, says Myra Hindley, is why she would not talk to Esther Rantzen

I RECEIVED a letter in August from a researcher working on the BBC talkshow, Esther, telling me that one of the new series was to be a discussion about whether or not the British are becoming obsessed with crime in the 1990s.

1. As someone who is regularly talked about in the media, how do you feel about the way this country views crime? 2. What is your view on criminals becoming celebrities? 3. Are you being increasingly approached by television companies, authors and journalists? Have you co-operated with any? 4. What do you think about Esther doing a programme on this subject?

welcome "window" to the outside world; and in general, whether I reply. I did not respond to the letter for several reasons, one of which is because the programme itself - broadcast last Friday - was designed to propagate the "celebration" of criminals, and I think the notion of criminals becoming celebrities is morally wrong.

prison, makes the parents' memories as vivid now as they were years ago. In an ideal world, I would like to see God strike Hindley and Brady dead; just wipe them out. My own view is that more consideration should be given to victims and families of victims in a compassionate and constructive way.

Advertisement for VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) featuring a cartoon of a person with a star on their chest and a speech bubble saying 'Some people in the Third World rely on British arms. Others rely on British legs, hands, eyes, brains and ears.'

10 OBITUARIES

Richard Barrer

Fuel the chemist's fame

RICHARD Barrer, who has died aged 96, was the founding father of zeolite chemistry and a prominent figure in membrane science. His research resulted in a huge increase in efficiency in converting crude oil to high octane fuel, and changed the way that detergents were manufactured. The commercial application of his discoveries, which allowed fuel to be manufactured at half its previous cost, may be said to have completely altered the economy of the developed world.



The commercial application of his discoveries allowed fuel to be manufactured at half its previous cost

These studies, undoubtedly, led to the industrial development of these materials in the late 1950s and early 1960s. His researches have also led to the development of large industrial processes for the separation of hydrocarbons, oxygen/nitrogen and other gas and liquid mixtures. From studies on the ion-exchange thermodynamics of sodium and calcium ions in zeolite A, some one million tons of zeolite are now used annually as builders in detergents. It has been used as a more environmen-

tally friendly replacement for phosphates in detergents since the 1970s. With his discovery that alkylammonium compounds could be used as "templates" in the synthesis of zeolites, a major new synthesis tool well beyond the field of zeolites was developed. One of the many new materials and processes developed as a result of Barrer's work was the zeolite ZSM-5. It is used as the catalyst in a power plant built in New Zealand for the conversion of natural gas to petroleum. This plant now provides some 30

per cent of the fuel needs of the country dear to Barrer's heart. After Clare College Cambridge, Bradford Technical College, Bedford College, London and five years as the chair of chemistry at the University of Aberdeen (1949-1954), Barrer was appointed professor of physical chemistry at Imperial College, London where he remained until his retirement. He was an excellent teacher, with an intense and infectious interest in the scientific problem at hand. As head of the chemistry department, he enjoyed turning his back on all his administrative problems and immersing himself in discussions during his daily visits to every member of his large research school. He was regularly consulted by many large industrial corporations right up to his death and was still publishing papers of considerable mathematical complexity in 1996. Outside the laboratory Barrer showed great prowess at athletics and tennis. He won the Oxford-Cambridge cross-country championship for 1934 and the British Universi-

ties Athletic Union cross-country championship for 1935. He was a serious contender for selection for the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. His tennis was still good enough, as late as 1990, to withstand all challenges in partnership with Bob Van Norstrand, who was six years his junior at the triennial British Zeolite Association meetings. Richard Maling Barrer was a most distinguished scientist. Although a shy person he had complete confidence in his own abilities. During his life he published over 400 papers, three monographs and took out 21 patents. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize this year. As this prize is not presented posthumously a shall never know how close he came to achieving the award he coveted and many distinguished colleagues felt he deserved. He leaves Helen, his wife of 57 years, and four children. Lovat Nees Richard Maling Barrer, chemist, born June 16, 1910; died September 12, 1996

Alan Downes

Searing image of war

PERHAPS one of the most searing remembrances of the Vietnam war was the image of nine-year-old Kim Phuc running naked towards and past the camera, her scalded skin melting from her body. That camera was held by Alan Downes, who has died aged 58.



Alan Downes with Prince Charles and a young Prince William in 1984, filming in Public, in Private

In that moment Downes was confronted by the ultimate dilemma for any journalist — stop filming and try to save her, or film on and let the agony inform the rest of us. In Kim's case he did both — literally ordering a passing American medical unit into emergency action, which probably saved her life. After that he was to serve time and again as the unsung agent of the image that was to fuel our own understanding and memory of great world events. Alan's career spanned the entire life of Independent Television News. He joined as a messenger boy from school in 1955, and was still doing the odd freelance shift in 1989. As one of the last intake for National Service the army decided that, as he worked for a television company, he should be trained as a stills photographer. It was his sense of contrast, shape and composition that rendered him such a special cameraman when he returned to ITN two years later. From then on he was thrown into virtually every front and backstage war in the world. From Vietnam to Cyprus, from Luanda to Belfast, and from Chile to Afghanistan. Alan was there, permanently professional, occasionally grumpy, but eternally interested, involved and engaged in the event in hand. We filmed elephant seals in Antarctica together, death squad victims in El Salvador, and the burial of hunger strikers in Belfast. We walked for six weeks across war-torn



Remembrance of Vietnam... Alan Downes's unforgettable shot of nine-year-old Kim Phuc fleeing a napalm attack

Eritrea, lived for a month with the guerrillas in El Salvador, and in those days, often under fire, we would live together with our soundman as intensely as with our own partners. In those hours, occasionally in captivity, often under fire, Alan had always had the capacity to make a calm and rational assessment of the danger. He never took risks but was always right there when it counted. Alan was a correct man, a warm and sensitive man,

even a short-tempered man — but whatever the vapours, his camera work was utterly dependable and of the highest order. He taught me and many others just about everything we now know of the craft of television and tutored us too in survival under fire. He was also a cultured man whose love of Persian carpets even the panic selling by frightened Iranian salesmen amidst Khomeini's return failed to sate. He won many awards for his camerawork — the most

celebrated with reporter Mike Nicholson. On July 20 1974, he was in northern Cyprus looking for the Turkish invasion force. Trundling along the wrong road, they ran out of petrol. Cursing and swearing, Nicholson got out of the car only to see to his left a vast array of parachutes falling from the sky. The film sound track has Mike's voice on it shouting "can you get it Alan?" But, as ever, Alan had his camera already rolling on what was to prove an historic world exclusive.

For Saskia and Nick, his grown children, and Sheila his wife, there is a desperate irony, that it was not the crossfire, the landmines, or the repressive guardsmen they had feared would kill him, but brain cancer, against which he so resiliently fought, that finally stilled his camera. Jon Snow Alan Charles Downes, cameraman, born September 6, 1938; died October 9, 1996

Charles Wegg-Prosser

A compulsion for politics

THE LAST political act of Charles Wegg-Prosser, who has died aged 86, was to vote yes to Labour's proposed new manifesto. Yet when he arrived in Paddington as a young solicitor in 1937 it was as a lieutenant of Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists.

After Mosley's New Party turned into the BUF in 1939 many of its original supporters had abandoned it. Not so Wegg-Prosser, more rural than urbane cosmopolitan, and a big, assertive, restless man, who continued to be excited by Mosley's authority, contributed to the Mosleyite theoretical journal and ran for the BUF in London local elections. Then he witnessed the BUF's repellent, violent anti-

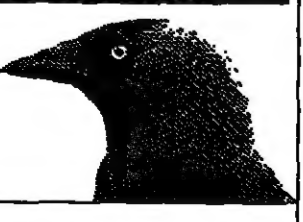
semitism. He openly denounced his black-shirted comrades and their psychopathic futurist and applied to join the Labour Party. Shrewdly, Herbert Morrison, then London's Labour Party leader, granted him a year's probation, but conversion was eventually completed. Wegg-Prosser's business prospered as well. He defended

Paddington's poor families and the criminal classes and also, with his wife Betty, involved himself in local affairs. He fought Paddington South unsuccessfully in the 1945, 1950, 1951 and 1955 general elections, and was elected to Paddington borough council. In the 1950s Wegg-Prosser was involved in the battle against the notorious slum landlord Peter Rachman. He proved indispensable too in drafting possible housing legislation and his Praed Street office became an early bastion of legal aid. A staunch, but not intolerant Gaiskellite, Charles Wegg-Prosser was the first

Labour activist to be taken on to that bastion of Conservatism, the Law Society's ruling body. His day-to-day experience in the courts and the community marked him out. A man of arcaic discretion, he did once show me a statement from a prostitute. This good woman had just chastised an ancient High Court judge, dressed him, given him a cup of strong tea, and seen him off the premises as a police raid began. "Honest to God, Mr Wegg-Prosser," she had told him, "I was more worried for the judge than myself. He could have had a heart attack." Charles looked at me

challengingly: "Now that's humanity," he said. He retired back to his family home in Hereford this March. Charles never ran away from a foe or argument, and although he looked like a clubland reactionary, he bore no personal animosity. His grandson, Ben, carries on the family's compulsive affair with politics and the media. He works for Labour's Peter Mandelson MP, grandson of — Herbert Morrison. Brydell Harrington Charles Wegg-Prosser, solicitor, born August 18 1910; died October 7 1996

Jackdaw



Euro scrapping

THE OTHER day in Brussels the British minister for agriculture was at it again, scrapping and bowing to the European commissioners for agriculture. Rather pathetic actually. He attempted to get them to reverse an agreement regarding the culling of potentially BSE-infected cattle. The agreement was reached by his own prime minister in Florence only months ago and claimed as a victory for Britain! The agricultural minister was rightly and politely shown the door! This kind of arrogance raises questions whether Britain is ready for European integra-

tion. The elitist group running the country is what needs to be culled! I don't have a feel for how the British would vote in a referendum on membership of the European Union but am absolutely certain there is not one single country in the European Union who would stand in the way of Britain leaving. The other EU members have had their heads up to the eyeballs! Of course this will never happen because Britain has no plausible future outside the European Union. "The move to a single European currency was formalised by the Treaty of European Union. Britain negotiated an opt out clause on EMU and is not obliged to join. The constant whining and accusations that its European partners have ulterior motives is outrageous. The suggestion that a move to a common currency is part of a German conspiracy to dominate Europe is ludicrous and indeed offensive in the year 1996. Britain with more admirals than ships in its navy is a first rate power, the days of glory and Rule Britannia are

over. For themselves and everyone else, the sooner they realise the better. From British Beef, It's What For Dinner! in the Entertainment an English-language Spanish paper. Thanks, Walter Plummer. History lines ABRAHAM Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846. John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946. Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860. John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960. Both their wives lost their children while living in the White House. Both Presidents were shot on a Friday. Both were shot in the head. Both were shot in the presence of their wives. Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy, Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln. Both successors were named Johnson. Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808. Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839. Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939. Booth ran from the theatre and was captured in a warehouse. Oswald ran from the warehouse and was captured in a theatre. To cap it all off, Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials. Mystery of a statistical coincidence? www.birdsalldesigns.com/MIKE/Lincoln-Kennedy.html Girl Crazy PRODUCERS of the ABC sitcom Ellen are discussing plans to have the main character disclose that she's a lesbian — the New York Times. DEAR ABC: I have read that you are thinking of turning the television character Ellen into a homosexual and am wondering if you plan to make her a slutty lesbian or the type who stays at home and gardens. If you move in favour of the slut, allow me to suggest my former wife as a role model. Is that the right word? I

mean that if Ellen wants to be a slutty lesbian you can base her character on my former wife — all she does is tell lies and slut around. On our wedding night, I shaved off all the hair on my body, because she said it made her nervous. Then, when I was bleeding from razor nicks, guess who chose to sleep on the sofa? Now she's living the slutty high life and I have nothing. If I provide you with my ex-wife's address, will you pay me for it? Please have your lawyers contact me as soon as possible. If my mother answers, ask to speak to Timothy. DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH MY MOTHER, as I don't want her knowing my business. Timothy Dykeman, Cleveland, Ohio. DEAR ABC: Kudos for allowing Ellen to reflect the rich diversity of the real America, a place where differences are celebrated and frank discussions of sexuality are as common as evening prayer. Do not be fooled or intimidated by the right wing's proposed boycotts. For every rabid fundamentalist, there are 10 free-

thinking progressives whose viewing habits cannot be altered by fear and hatred. I congratulate you for breaking new ground and feel certain your courageous decision will reward us all. One question, though: How soon after she comes out will Ellen start getting it on with other women? There must be all kinds of college-girls ready to shed their sweaters and hop into the sack with the stacked and lovely Miss DeGeneres. Stick with the hot stuff and you've got yourself a loyal viewer. Dimitrios Sappho, New York City. David Sedaris considering the letters ABC might receive in the New Yorker. Very Sad * YOU WORE a blue ribbon to protest the Communications Decency Act. * You kiss your girlfriend's home page. * Your eyeglasses have a web site burned in on them. * You find yourself brainstorming for new subjects to search. * You refuse to go to a vacation spot with no electricity or phone lines. * You finally do take that vacation, but only after buying a cellular modem and a laptop. * You spend half of a plane trip with your laptop on your lap, and your child in the overhead compartment. * You refer to going to the bathroom as "downloading." * Your wife drapes a blonde wig over your monitor to remind you of what she looks like. * You start introducing yourself as "Jim at I-I-Net dot net dot au." * All of your friends have an @ in their names. * Your dog has its own home page. * You've already visited all the links at Yahoo and you're halfway through Lycos. * You can't call your mother — she doesn't have a modem. * You check your mail. It says "no new messages." So you check it again. * Your wife's new rule: "The computer cannot come to bed." * You are so familiar with the WWW that you find the search engines useless. Symptoms of Internet addiction. Discussed in the Alt. Best of Internet newsgroup by Michael Jovic. Jackdaw wants Jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guar.dian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Susan Gautier-Smith

Friendship and laughter

SUSAN Gautier-Smith, who has died aged 53 of complications brought on by heart failure, was a television producer and casting director of comedy programmes of the associated with many of the key comedy programmes of the decade. She was also, as her friend and colleague David Baddiel once put it, a social centre, a person whose gift for friendship made her the pith of a creative community.

Susan — or Suz, as she was universally known — Gautier-Smith was the daughter of one of England's foremost neurologists. After Wimbledon High School and London's Lycée Français, she won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, where she read English and became involved in the dramatic world, from Footlights pantomime to musicals. She began her professional career with Yorkshire Television, as a researcher on *Hurray for Today*, Lucinda Lambton's gang-bang guide to the architecture of Britain. The series' title said something about Suz's exuberant disposition. Having worked on a number of highly-regarded programmes — which included producing a memorable documentary about the American scientist Clifford Stoll — Suz studied film at New York University. Back from America, she turned her attention to a rising generation of humorists and comic performers like Armando Iannucci, David Baddiel, Steve Coogan, and Chris Morris. It was as producer or casting director on shows like *The Day Today*, *Saturday Night Armistice*, *The Alan Partridge Show*, and *Knowing Me Knowing You* that Suz contributed to our popular culture.

Suz was enthusiastic about television because she enjoyed enabling writers and performers to do their stuff. Generosity of spirit was her distinctive quality, that, and a curiosity about the world, expressed in her travels and enthusiasm for people, trends and ideas. She cross-examined new acquaintances about themselves which invariably led to the common ground of friendship. Thus, on the bus from the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, Suz befriended the tiny old lady and concentration camp survivor seated next to her and discovered that they had mutual friends in Wimbledon. Suz was never happier than when at the family home in Trebovirick, Cornwall, with her family and friends, and in particular, with her husband Matthew Batstone, whom she married last year. There she would match-make for straight and gay friends alike, mend broken hearts and pour out the wine, her steady blue gaze gradually acquiring a mischievous glint. In early 1996 Suz went with Matthew to Fontainebleau, where he was to study for a masters degree and an MBA. There she became pregnant with her son Patrick. The pregnancy had a beneficial effect on the chronic rheumatoid arthritis, which she had



Gautier-Smith... TV career

sense Englishness. I say "initially" because that uncertainty lasted only about 10 minutes, after which I realised that Suz was a great advertisement for a post background — she may have been a "socialite", but only in the sense that she was incredibly, intensely sociable. Most people who have a very wide circle of friends one suspects perhaps of having only surface friendships, but Suz was so open and so genuinely curious about everyone she met and easily befriended that it simply was the truth — and I know this is often said in obituaries, but it was, as I say, the truth — that everyone loved her. I met her on my first day at Cambridge, and being myself somewhat ethnic and pedantic, was initially uncertain about this robust blonde with her double-barrelled name and her no-nonsense Englishness. I say "initially" because that uncertainty lasted only about 10 minutes, after which I realised that Suz was a great advertisement for a post background — she may have been a "socialite", but only in the sense that she was incredibly, intensely sociable. Most people who have a very wide circle of friends one suspects perhaps of having only surface friendships, but Suz was so open and so genuinely curious about everyone she met and easily befriended that it simply was the truth — and I know this is often said in obituaries, but it was, as I say, the truth — that everyone loved her. Suz was never happier than when at the family home in Trebovirick, Cornwall, with her family and friends, and in particular, with her husband Matthew Batstone, whom she married last year. There she would match-make for straight and gay friends alike, mend broken hearts and pour out the wine, her steady blue gaze gradually acquiring a mischievous glint. In early 1996 Suz went with Matthew to Fontainebleau, where he was to study for a masters degree and an MBA. There she became pregnant with her son Patrick. The pregnancy had a beneficial effect on the chronic rheumatoid arthritis, which she had

Birthdays

Tony Adams, footballer, 30; Janet Bloomfield, chair, CND, 43; Karlene Davis, general secretary-elect, Royal College of Midwives, 50; Peter Davis, director-general, Oflet, 55; Ted Edgar, show jumper, 61; Fiona Fallowell, actress, 40; Clare Hollingworth, journalist, 85; Daniel Massey, actor, 63; Nicholas Parsons, quizmaster, 88; Harold Pinter, playwright, 68; Chris Tarrant, broadcaster, 50; Midge Ure, rock singer, 43; Willard White, baritone, 50.

Death Notices

BRACE, Helen Miriam Stuart at Colindale on Thursday the 3rd of October 1996. Our beloved mother and grandmother for a long and interesting life will be at St. Mary's Church, Amersham at 1.30pm on Friday the 11th of October, followed by interment for family only at All Saints, Colindale. Flowers only. Donations to Helen House Hospice, Colindale. BRUCE, Betty Ellen of Crown Wood, 1988. Loved and cherished by her family. She died peacefully in her sleep on 7th October 1996. Her telephone 0171 713 4527; fax 0171 713 4124.

Advertisement for The New Yorker magazine, featuring a picture of a cat and the text 'The New Yorker... letters'.

Large advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, with text including 'rabbit gets on h...', 'Gas e...', 'draconian...', 'ats don', 'the bill', 'A British...', 'standing', 'tion', 'reports', and 'Jackdaw to sue in o... the cable news th...'.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Customers in South-west experiment complain of threatening letters though they don't owe a penny

Gas competition in chaos

Geoffrey Gibbs

CONSUMER watchdogs have launched an emergency investigation into a flood of complaints from gas customers in the South-west, amid signs that the Government's experiment with competition is descending into chaos.

Thousands who switched to new suppliers when the domestic gas market in the region was opened up to competition earlier this year. Consumer groups say they are deeply concerned about the situation which they blame on the inadequacies of British Gas's computer systems.

It is understood that about 450 complaints have been received by the London and Plymouth offices of the Gas Consumers Council. Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, told the Guardian last night: "We think there is a serious problem with British Gas systems over this and we are in urgent discussions with Ofgas. It seems the systems are not able to cope with customer transfer and that has implications for public confidence in the competitive market."

Next Monday she is expected to widen the Monopolies and Mergers inquiry into BG's pipeline and exploration business, TransCo, to include not only disputed price controls but also alleged cross-subsidies. Among those threatened with court action was Frank Knott, a 66-year-old retired fireman from Torquay, who changed to Swebgas on the day the new competitive market opened.

and according to his new supplier — who took over on April 29 — may in fact be owed money by British Gas because of previous over-estimates on his account. Earlier this week he and his wife received a letter from the Stockport-based firm Moorcroft Debt Recovery which said it had been instructed by British Gas to collect an overdue debt of £22.58. The letter warned it was essential to settle the debt without delay. Failure to contact the company might result in a summons being issued without further notice.

She says that despite complaining about an incorrect meter reading when her final bill arrived in mid-July, she heard nothing from British Gas until the debt collector's letter arrived this week.

Notebook

Eddie walks the euro tightrope



Edited by Alex Brummer

IT WOULD have been difficult for the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, to be further away from the ferment of Blackpool and Bournemouth. Yet as first Labour and now the Tories work themselves into a lather about the single currency, it is Mr George, currently marching across the Himalayas, whose name is on everyone's lips. Last week Mr George had reportedly delivered a private message to the Labour leader, Tony Blair, advising him that delay would be the best policy.

Such an increase is certain to be vociferously opposed by the insurance industry. The Government would, however, point out that with greater efficiency — of the kind brought to the industry by Direct Line — the premium tax could be easily absorbed. Moreover, the Government is already proposing to gift huge new income streams to the insurance companies through health care and pension changes and it would prefer for them if they didn't squeal. It would be unwise to underestimate the gulle of a Chancellor determined to produce income tax cuts, without worsening public borrowing.

Golden goal

BRITISH Telecom's plan to break into the German telecom market, the largest and most lucrative in Europe, has come unstuck in a big way. The decision by the utilities group RWE to desert to the Cable & Wireless camp has blown a hole in BT's German strategy.

BT says its priority is to negotiate access to more fibre networks to give its joint venture a proper backbone network covering most of the country. But equally important will be finding someone to share the investment burden. BT and Viag said that about £900 million would have to be invested in their joint venture over 10 years. But that was before the two decided to bid for Germany's fourth mobile phone licence. If they win the bidding, the investment required could easily rise to about £1.6 billion.

Taxing needs

THE IPS/Goldman Sachs green budget (details page 22) leaves no doubt that cutting taxes in November's budget would be dangerous, given Britain's prospective levels of borrowing. It suggests that Mr Clarke will

Surprise bidder for Queens Moat hotels

Dominic Walsh

A FLEDGLING Scottish hotel company has emerged as a surprise front-runner to buy the 25 hotels including the England team's HQ during Euro 96 — put up for sale by Queens Moat Houses in April, with a price tag of more than £100 million.

Glasgow-based Adams Hotels, with just two hotels, is believed to have offered as much as £110 million for the package, with funding from the Royal Bank of Scotland. Queens Moat, which is selling the hotels to reduce its £1 billion debt mountain, declined to comment on the deal. However, Adams deal director, Michael Thompson, said: "We are discussing it."

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.9175	France 1.8080	Italy 2.325	Singapore 2.15
Canada 2.0500	Germany 2.1300	Malta 0.5485	South Africa 6.8
Cyprus 1.7045	Greece 3.8075	Netherlands 2.6040	Spain 194.85
Denmark 8.9180	Hong Kong 11.70	New Zealand 2.20	Sweden 11.170
Finland 7.0620	India 55.71	Norway 9.90	Switzerland 1.8
	Ireland 0.9455	Portugal 235.50	Turkey 140.017
	Israel 4.98	Saudi Arabia 5.83	USA 1.5276

Draconian cuts don't fill the bill

Outlook/ British Energy standing still. Simon Beavis reports

SHAREHOLDERS in British Energy yesterday saw their shares stay above July's flotation price for the second day as the company confirmed plans to cut 28 per cent of its staff or 1,460 jobs in a £300 million programme. The share price rose on the news by 0.5p to 108p, going from a 3p margin above the flotation issue price. However, the shares gave up their gains in late trading and closed at 107.5p.

DESPITE yesterday's far-reaching restructuring announcement, the nuclear power generator remained fixed in a familiar place. It is called Controversy And Uncertainty. The job-cutting plans met with widespread condemnation from unions and opposition parties on both sides of the border, and nuclear industry inspectors warned they could block the cuts if safety were compromised.

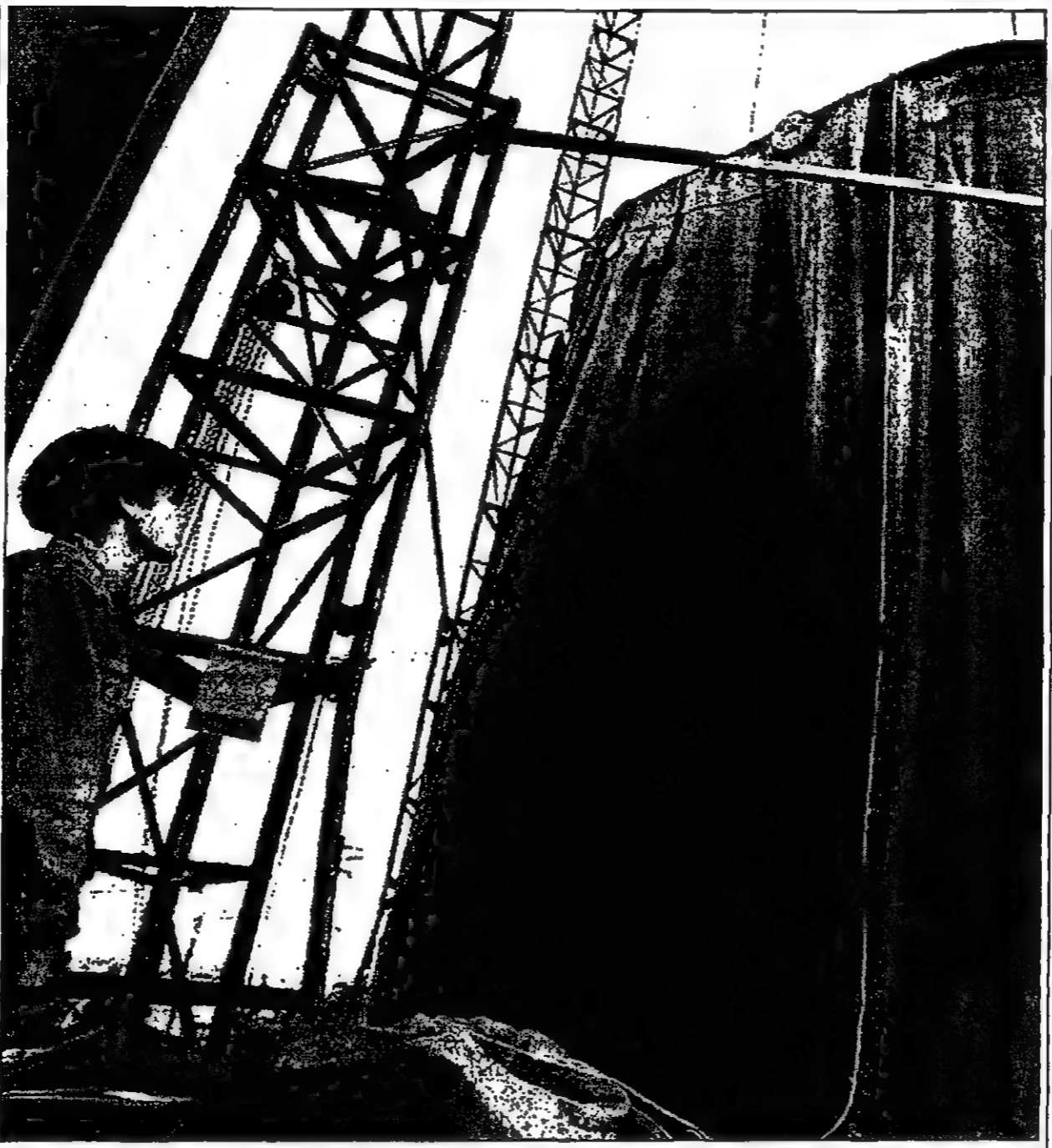
The company claimed that the cuts, which will save £20 million a year and will be achieved over a three-year period, had been clearly flagged ahead of July's controversial self-off. That claim is disputed by unions and some City analysts, who insist there was never any hint that cuts would be so draconian. In truth, the City had expected the company to make cost savings through some staff cuts. Indeed, it was seen as one of the only ways out of British Energy's squeeze. And the cost-savings outlined by chief executive Robert Hawley are bigger than many watchers had anticipated.

wholesale electricity price of the day. That price is set by other types of stations which run in the middle of the merit order, or when demand peaks. While pool prices are high and reactors are running well, cash pours in. The trouble is that the reactors have had a troubled operating record, and pool prices are expected to tumble dramatically in the next three years as competition in the generation market builds up.

Yesterday's announcement therefore leaves British Energy standing still, effectively balancing cost savings against falling revenues. But only British Energy can keep its stations ticking over smoothly. But will the massive staff reductions cut technical expertise at the stations and make unplanned outages both more frequent and more long-lasting?

Shareholders know that the company is "highly geared operationally". They were warned in the prospectus the dividend could be cut if stations underperformed, or pool prices fell by more than 5 per cent, or if cost savings proved elusive. Even though they know the company is prepared to dig into reserves to pay dividends until the turn of the century (there will be no profits before then), they are unlikely to be cheered by yesterday's announcement. Dr Hawley dismissed claims that the cuts were a sop to shareholders as "rubbish". Instead they were "to ensure we are competitive with other forms of generation in the UK". He denied that they would affect the company's ability to maintain current high levels of output, or even to increase them marginally.

The first hurdle will be to convince the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate that the cuts are safe. After that, British Energy must look to what it can do to increase cost savings. In the short term, there will be other, more minor savings. Then the options get more tricky. One obvious move — clearly in the back of some directors' minds — is to sort out the chaotic corporate structure and bring all the reactors under one operational command rather than under two subsidiaries. As the current structure is entirely politically motivated — designed to reassure Scotland that there has not been an English takeover — such a move would be highly sensitive — and would land British Energy back in the thick of controversy and uncertainty.



Great strides... a worker operates a winch to haul up a huge part of American Lee jeans in front of a Beijing shopping centre. The jeans, said to be the world's largest, are as tall as 10-storey building

Reuters unfazed by Clarke attack

Ian Kings

REUTERS yesterday shrugged off Kenneth Clarke's surprise rule changes on share buybacks and insisted that it still hopes to return part of its £560 million cash pile to shareholders. The media group, which yesterday shelved plans to return cash to shareholders through a buyback and special dividend, said it was hopeful of finding a way around the new rule. However, store chain Alders, which was hoping to win approval for a share consolidation at its extraordinary meeting today, last night abandoned its plans.

On Tuesday, in a move widely believed to be timed to stop the Reuters agency winning approval for its £615 million buyback deal, the Chancellor of the Exchequer scrapped tax benefits linked to some share buyback and special dividend schemes. But yesterday Reuters chief executive Peter Job said the company still hoped to make a payout to its shareholders, and would wait until after the Finance Bill before deciding what steps to take next. He added: "It is necessary for some way to be found in which cash can be given out to shareholders without excessive problems, and no doubt this will happen in due course."

It is thought Reuters may now look at more conventional ways of returning cash to shareholders, such as in the form of an ordinary special dividend, with the company's plans to adjourn its resolutions returning cash to shareholders indefinitely, giving Mr Job and his colleagues time to thrash out an alternative strategy. Reuters shares closed up 9 1/2 p at 78 1/2 p on the news. Elsewhere, Alders told shareholders that, as intended, it would be proposing payment of a special dividend of 36p — worth a total of £50 million — at its extraordinary meeting today, but without a previously planned share consolidation.

According to City analysts, Reuters is accumulating cash at the rate of £300 million but, aside from a few small acquisitions in the new media sector earlier this year, is not under pressure to make any substantial acquisitions. Meanwhile, Reuters shareholders yesterday backed the company's plans to adjourn its resolutions returning cash to shareholders indefinitely, giving Mr Job and his colleagues time to thrash out an alternative strategy. Reuters shares closed up 9 1/2 p at 78 1/2 p on the news.

Murdoch to sue in clash of the cable news titans

Mark Tran in New York

RUPERT Murdoch's News Corporation yesterday said it was suing Time Warner for allegedly reneging on an agreement to carry the new Fox News Channel on its US cable systems. The escalation in the clash of two media titans mixes elements of farce and seriousness. News Corp said it will seek a permanent injunction against Time Warner's acquisition of Turner Broadcasting, owner of Cable News Network, which is expected to receive shareholders' approval today. The suit will allege "anti-trust violations, in-

cluding an anti-trust conspiracy, between Time Warner and Turner to block the Fox News Channel". But the lawsuit has little chance of success because the deal has won Federal Trade Commission approval.

"The lawsuit is utter foolishness," said Richard Parsons, president of Time Warner. The case hinges on whether Time Warner committed itself to carry Fox News Channel, which this week joined the crowded all-news TV business. News Corp believes Gerald Levin, chairman of Time Warner, made a personal commitment to Mr Murdoch to carry Fox News. Time Warner disagrees.

Revenue taxed over 'unhelpful insensitivity'

Watchdog attacks overbearing staff and predicts big rise in complaints when self-assessment is introduced

Ian Wylie

STAFF at the Inland Revenue and Customs were yesterday accused of "incompetence, insensitivity and indifference" by a Government watchdog who warns of a steep rise in complaints when the new system of self-assessment for tax is introduced. In her annual report, the adjudicator Elizabeth Filkin, who also handles

complaints about the Contributions Agency, said she had seen too many examples of unhelpfulness, overbearing behaviour and poor communication among staff at the three departments. During 1995/96, Ms Filkin received 3,267 complaints — an increase of 27 per cent on the previous year, mainly because of the adjudicator's new responsibilities for looking at complaints about Customs & Excise and the Contribu-

tions Agency. In 50 per cent of complaints, Ms Filkin found either wholly or partly in favour of the complainant. The largest single compensation payment was £28,496, made by the Inland Revenue following a complaint that it had conducted the investigation of a small business improperly. The report praises the Inland Revenue for improving the way it handles complaints and deals with taxpayers, but the adjudicator said she had seen some "very poor work" by the Revenue where taxpayers had faced huge bills, been caused unnecessary work and suffered frustration and fear.

She singled out the Valuation Office Agency for censure, saying she had seen little improvement in the quality of its complaints handling over the last year. A spokesman later conceded that the adjudicator's office was gearing up for a surge of complaints about self-assessment by reviewing staffing requirements and enrolling employees on self-assessment training courses. "Anything that is new and affects nine million people is bound to be a source of error and complaints," he said. "We would prefer to anticipate the response now, rather than react to it later."

Emily Sheffield

BT's milch-cow soured by partner deserting to C&W

Nicholas Barnister
Technology Editor

BRITISH Telecom suffered a substantial blow to its European expansion ambitions yesterday when one of its two German partners switched sides to join up with rival Cable & Wireless.

Utilities group RWE said it had decided not to participate in the telecom venture set up by BT and Viag, another utilities group, after a disagreement on policy.

It revealed that it is now concluding negotiations with C&W and Veba, yet another utility, on "taking a new direction to enter the German telecommunications market".

The two sides fell out over how, if they won the licence, they would run Germany's fourth mobile phone network. Licence applications must be made within the next week.

In February RWE signed a letter of intent to join Viag Interkom — the telecom company set up by Viag and BT. But the talks to finalise the deal recently turned sour.

RWE, with a 4,000km fibre-optic network in northern Germany, would have doubled the size of Viag Interkom's backbone network.

Viag Interkom is now left with a network covering just 40 per cent of the population, largely in southern Germany.

A BT spokesman said the

group was talking to another party to replace RWE.

He said BT and Viag wanted to create an integrated business offering land-line and mobile services on a single network, whereas RWE was pushing for the more costly option of a stand-alone mobile business.

RWE's move into the C&W camp is all the more galling for BT as it failed to bring off a £33 billion merger with C&W earlier this year.

C&W and Veba have already set up Veacom to spearhead their assault on the German telecom market, which is due to be opened to full competition by 1998.

Veacom and RWE are planning to keep the network and services sides of the business apart. RWE, which is planning to invest about DM2.5 billion, will end up with 51 per cent of the network company. Veacom will control the services side, which will include any mobile phone operations. A separate management company owned by the three parent groups will co-ordinate strategy and spending.

Under the new structure, no new cash will be needed from C&W for the next four or five years.

Deutsche Telekom, the state-owned telecom monopoly, is due to be privatised next month, when a 30 per cent stake in the company is to be sold to investors for

about £2.3 billion. It claimed yesterday to have found interest among 2.5 million potential investors.

BT and Viag had always wanted to bring in a third partner to spread the cost of setting up a business capable of competing with Deutsche Telekom. They had originally estimated that £500 million would have to be invested, but the total investment could rise to £1.6 billion if they win the licence for the £2 mobile network.

City analysts said that a replacement for RWE would be hard to find. But Richard Jones, telecom specialist at Yamatchi, suggested that industrial groups Daimler-Benz and Thyssen may be possible partners. Thyssen failed to win the right to use the fibre-optic network alongside Germany's motorways.

"As far as BT is concerned, RWE was a fairly recent addition and it is far better that they fall out now, rather than in 1998, when things hot up," he said.

Recent clarification of the regulatory regime will make it easier for Viag Interkom to negotiate agreements to use other operators' networks.

RWE has valuable infrastructure in the German telecoms market and BT is continuing talks with the company to gain access to it, said a BT spokesman. "We are confident some agreement can be reached," he added.

Former BET director backs John Clark's £6m compensation claim



John Clark (above), former BET chief executive, claiming for earnings loss after takeover, backed by Lord Tebbit. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: TREVOR HAMPHREYS

Tebbit gets on his bike to attack cult of ageism

Lord Tebbit yesterday took time off from the Tory conference in Bournemouth to attack the "cult of ageism" which he admitted made it difficult for anyone over 55 to find a job.

Lord Tebbit, who once famously told the unemployed to get on their bikes and look for work, told the High Court: "I suffer from it myself, being 66. It isn't fashionable these days to appoint chief executives who are in their upper 50s."

Lord Tebbit's comments came as he gave evidence for John Clark, former chief executive of services group BET, who is claiming over £6 million in compensation for loss of earnings after BET's £2.1 billion takeover by Rentokil earlier this year.

Lord Tebbit, a former non-executive director of BET since 1987, who has

previously attacked the way Rentokil "got rid" of Mr Clark, denied there was an "old school tie" culture in the world of commerce.

Responding to American-born Mr Clark's QC, Brian Langstaff, Lord Tebbit said: "One assesses people on their work. Their reputation is normally public, and there is not an old school network of people fixing jobs at cocktail parties and dinner parties."

Lord Tebbit also told the court that following its takeover of BET, Rentokil had "demanded" Mr

Clark's removal from office, without seeking any consultation with the BET board.

He claimed Rentokil's chief executive, Sir Clive Thompson, had "threatened personal legal action" against any BET board member who had not supported a motion to remove Mr Clark from office.

However, Andrew Hoar, Rentokil's QC, suggested that Mr Clark had "extremely influential" friends who could recommend him to others, and said Rentokil did not accept Lord Tebbit's version of Mr Clark's dismissal.

Mr Clark is suing for unfair dismissal, and is claiming three years' wages, bonus payments and benefits in lieu of notice worth over £6 million.

Rentokil refuses to pay compensation for the full three years, claiming Mr Clark could have got another job to mitigate his losses.



Cable firm sets OfTel on to BT's BSKyB deal

Nicholas Barnister

OFTEL, the telecom watchdog, is investigating an alliance struck between British Telecom and satellite broadcaster BSKyB.

A cable company, believed to be General Cable, has complained to OfTel about the deal, announced by BT at the end of last month.

Under the agreement, members of BT's Friends & Family discount scheme who sign up with BSKyB get a special offer worth £96, which includes five-and-a-half hours of free local BT calls every weekend for a year.

A BT spokesman said that the BSKyB deal was no different to a range of other affinity deals it has done with companies or brands, such as British Airways, Sainsbury, Pal dog foods and Flora margarine.

He said the £96 of free local calls was paid to BT by BSKyB. "BT is not favouring one group of customers over another," he said.

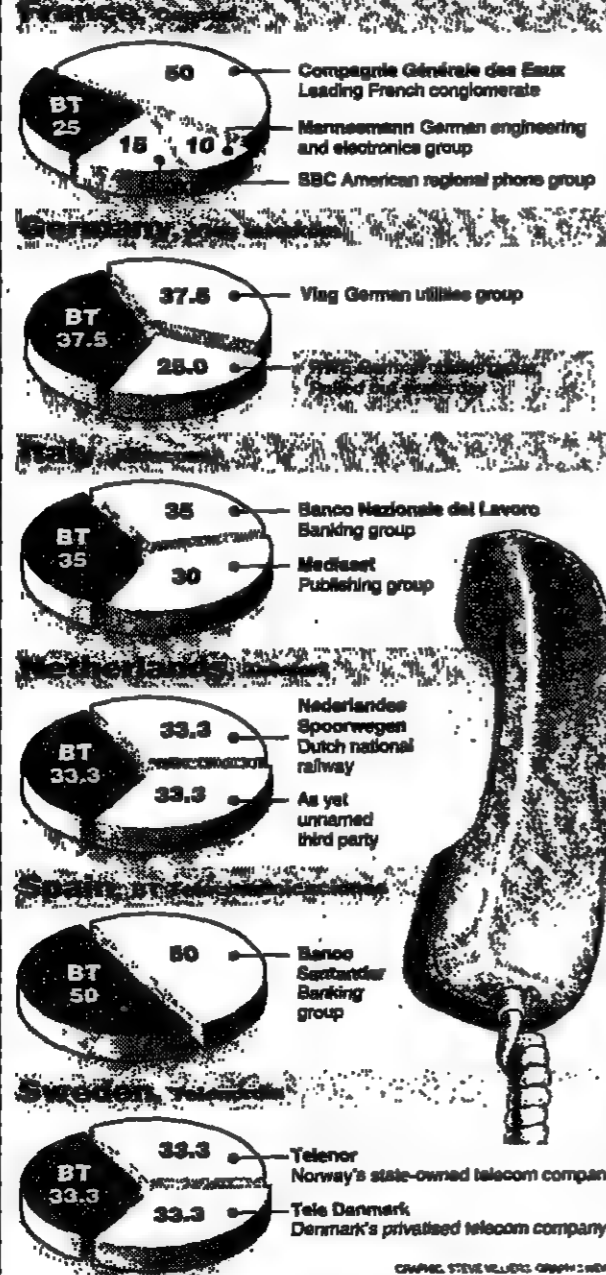
An OfTel spokeswoman said that it had received a complaint from a cable company which it was obliged to investigate under the present regulations.

The watchdog has asked BT for details of the scheme, and expected to receive them within the next few days. It would then see whether the telecoms company was in breach of any of its licence conditions.

However, OfTel will not be checking to see whether the issue comes within the new catch-all fair trading clause in BT's licence, since the clause does not come into effect until January.

BT's connections

Percentage ownership of European phone companies



EC queries Alitalia aid

Mark Miller
European Business Editor

THE European Commission is to investigate the Italian government's plans to pump 1.6 trillion lire (£640 million) into the ailing flag carrier, Alitalia.

The investigation will focus on whether the cash injection amounts to commercial investment or whether it is illegal state aid.

Alitalia needs the money because it is heavily in the red, with a run of losses stretching back several years. Analysts suggest that the airline will clock up substantial losses in this financial year.

Yesterday an Alitalia spokesman declined to comment on the Commission's move. The Commission is going to analyse our plan. It would not be appropriate to comment at the moment."

The Italian authorities, however, will be hoping that the package, which will also include substantial outside investment, can satisfy the Commission. Alitalia's strategy, which is designed to get it back into the black in 1997, also includes plans to cut costs and jobs over the next two years.

The Commission has already cleared subsidies to a number of state-owned airlines in recent years, including

Air France, Greece's Olympic Airways and Spain's Iberia, despite criticism from non state-owned rivals. However, the Alitalia proposals could face a bumpy ride from Brussels.

Yesterday the Commission was quoted as saying that it "doesn't share the Italian argument that the proposed injection of capital is the action of any ordinary market investor and doesn't constitute a state aid."

In addition to questioning the possibility of illegal aid, officials are said to wonder whether or not the Alitalia plan takes sufficient account of the likely development of the European airline market.

News in brief

Inchcape subsidiary sold for £380m

INCCHCAPE, the marketing and distribution group, yesterday nailed down one of the key planks of its ambitious restructuring plan with the £380 million sale of its Testing Services subsidiary to Charterhouse Development Capital. The sale price was significantly higher than analysts had expected. Stuart Simpson, a Charterhouse director, said: "We believed that is justified by the group's prospects and current trading."

The sale will produce a profit of £180 million and is expected to be completed early next month. The cash will be used to reduce the Inchcape group's debt, which stood at £508.8 million at the end of June.

Philip Cushing, Inchcape's chief executive, defended the sale of such a successful subsidiary, the world's largest non-automotive testing organisation employing 7000 people worldwide, by stressing that the group was being focused on its core activities of marketing and motor distribution. The second big part of Inchcape's restructuring is expected to be the merger of its insurance division, Bain Hogg. — Pauline Springett

Anger at Olivetti board ban

FOREIGN shareholders in Italy's Olivetti yesterday reacted angrily to news that the company would not allow them to nominate a board representative. "We're not giving up on it and we will continue to pursue them," said a London fund manager with a significant stake in the company.

The company had promised to bring in two non-executive directors to represent outside shareholders, but Dario Trevisan, the Milan lawyer the foreign institutions planned to nominate, yesterday confirmed Olivetti had not asked him to join.

Olivetti yesterday refused to comment on reports that NEC and Sony had formally expressed interest in acquiring its troubled computer making subsidiary which it last week said it would sell by the end of this year. — John Glaver in Milan

Hull phone company expands

KINGSTON Communications, the unique municipally-owned telecommunications group, will operate outside the Hull area for the first time in its 22-year history following the £26.3 million buyout of Yorkshire Electricity's 50 per cent stake in Torch Telecom, completed yesterday.

Torch, an advanced business telecommunications network operator for Yorkshire and Humberside, was established as a joint venture between the two companies in 1984. The company, which handles around 10 million calls a month, will continue to operate as an independent company within the Kingston group, with its own licence and board of directors. Yorkshire Electricity has decided to leave the telecommunications market to concentrate on its core energy business. — Martyn Halsall

Tractors go to market

NEW Holland, one of the world's biggest tractor and combine harvest makers, announced plans for a flotation on the New York stock exchange valuing it at over \$3.4 billion (£2.3 billion). New Holland, which accounts for one in every five tractors and one in every six combine harvesters sold worldwide, has its head office in Britain and employs over 2,400 people in the UK.

Stiffint, which was created in 1981 when Fiat snapped up Ford New Holland and merged it with its Fiat Geotech agricultural equipment division, will remain 68 per cent owned by Fiat after the flotation. — Ian King

South Africans buy UK broker

CARR Sheppards, the British stockbroker with more than £3.5 billion of funds under management, is to be bought by South Africa's Investec Bank for an undisclosed sum. The firm is owned by Banque Indosuez, which decided to offload Carr Sheppards following a strategic review last year. The stockbroker has a client base of about 9,000 and employs more than 200 staff in London, Farnham and Reigate. The move, which is expected to be sealed by the end of the year, will boost Investec's assets under management or advice to more than 90 billion rand (£13 billion).

Underside

Dan Atkinson

RAJ Bagri was in fighting form at the London Metal Exchange's annual knees-up — the event he described as the "epicentre of the entire globe's metal industry" — at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Tuesday night. As he usually does, Sumitomo, two members of the 3,000-strong audience were doubtless listening with keen interest: Charles Vincent and Ashley Levett, co-founders of Winchester Commodities, were present as Mr Bagri warned that over-regulation of the LME would drive speculators into fringe investments, including Caribbean beaches and snow-backed mountains (now there's a couple of ideas for the Winchester boys). The LME, said Mr Bagri, "is no ordinary futures market". It sure isn't.

THE sang froid of our fund managers is something to behold. You may have thought that with the, ah, difficulties at Morgan Grenfell, Kleinwort Benson and Jardine Fleming, investment chiefs would be displaying more than a little anxiety about controls, ethics and so forth. Not a bit of it. A survey by TIS, supplier of portfolio management systems, asked: "What is keeping fund managers awake at night?" To which the short answer appears to be: "Absolutely nothing." Or rather, nothing important. Thirty-six per cent tossed and turned over "the diffi-

culty of outperforming benchmarks", and there were a few who mentioned affairs may have caused a "loss of credibility and public confidence". That their own houses may not be in order would seem to have worried none of them.

SHE can fly, sail, dive, do just about anything, but can the modern woman execute a major fraud? No, according to Martin Kenney, solicitor and president of Interclaim, the new Dublin-based financial salvage outfit that aims to go after a slice of the \$1 trillion in abandoned claims hidden in offshore locations. His paper, About Serious Fraud, published last month and co-authored with partner Eugene Becker, carries an intriguing footnote: "The use of the appellations him and he... is not coincidental. In the authors' circumnavigations in pursuit of miscreants, we have yet to find, address or receive instructions about a woman who



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Olympic Games

Big losses rumoured in Atlanta

Adrian Warner in Lusarne

REPORTS that the Atlanta summer Olympic Games have lost tens of millions of dollars...

"I'm expecting good news, maybe not great news," said John Krimsky of the US Olympic Committee...

Rugby League

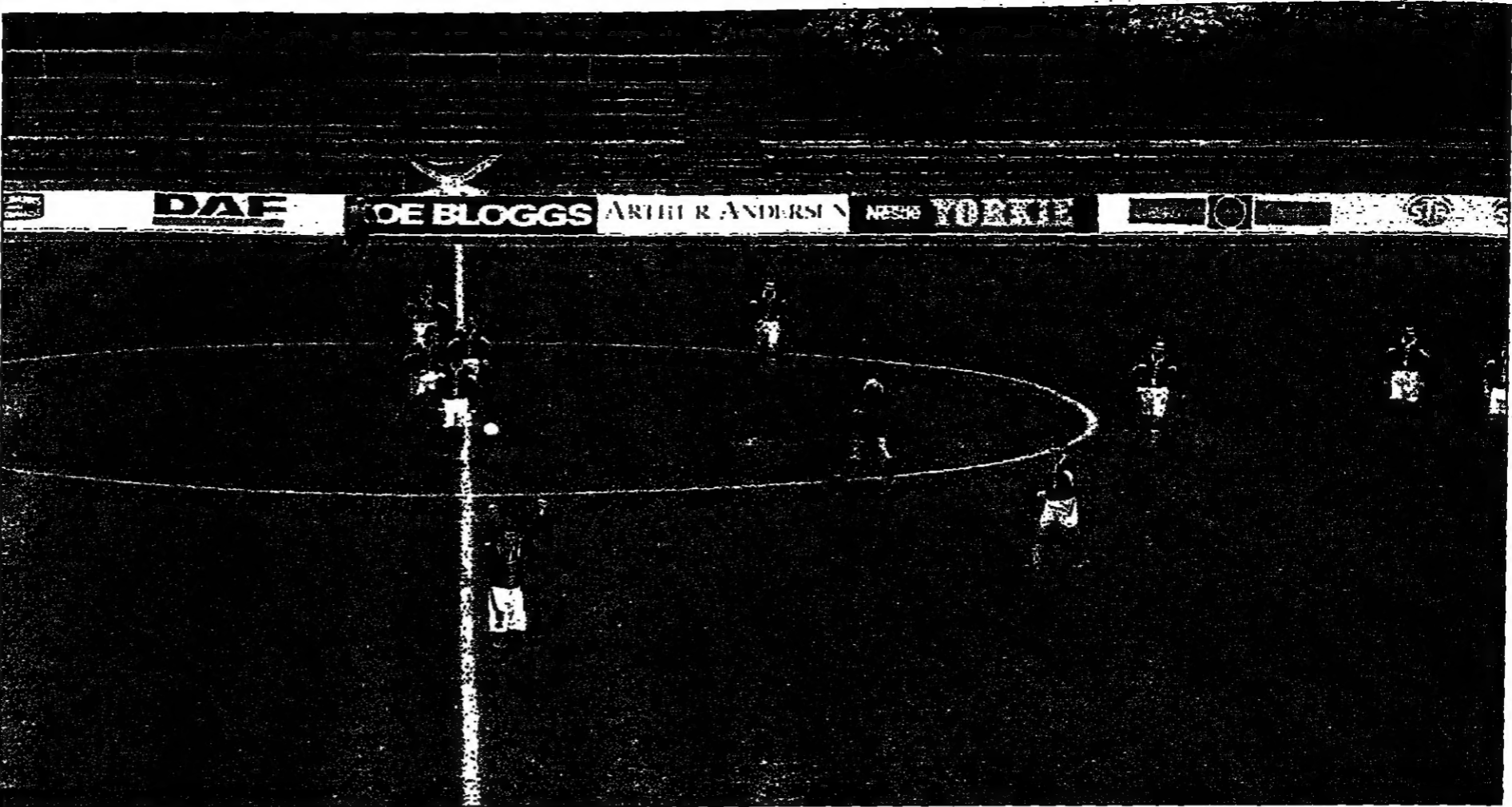
Fans resist move from Headingley

John Huxley

LEEDS supporters have reacted vigorously to the threat of the club's move from Headingley...

had declined to send a representative to last night's meeting...

ESTONIA FAIL TO TURN UP IN FLOODLIGHT ROW



Game of no halves... Scotland celebrate after their 'victory'. Dodds passed to Collins and the referee blew the final whistle

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW ASHTON

One-sided victory for Scotland

Patrick Glenn in Tallinn witnesses a low farce as the opposition fails to turn up for their Group Four World Cup qualifier

THE pantomime season opened early here yesterday, when Scotland played a phantom World Cup tie against nobody...

At a meeting at the ground at 8pm on Tuesday the lights were tested...

said that the decision was final. An hour later Farry and other Scottish officials...

Soon afterwards the Estonian FA issued a statement that it could not comply because some of the team's part-time players...



Frank Keating

SUNDAY morning park footballers, of course, are used to the opposition not turning up...

kick-about working men's teams with such cannyly boastful names as Queen of the North or (an exiled Spanish waiter's XI) Apparent Madrid...

lights. It is surprising that floodlit football has not been the cause of more postponements...

Advertisement for Minicall mobile phone service, featuring a woman on a mobile phone and the slogan 'Stay in touch with no running costs.'

Waddle aims for higher office

CHRIS WADDLE'S Highland fling came to an end yesterday when his month-long contract at Falkirk expired...

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer, Basketball, Chess, and Cycling.

McGrath set for £200,000 Derby move

Peter White DERBY COUNTY'S manager Jim Smith hopes to complete the £200,000 signing of the veteran Aston Villa defender Paul McGrath today...

Fixtures

Table of upcoming sports fixtures for various leagues.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page with various slogans and text, including 'Secret to head off breakaw...' and 'meth goes cosmop...'.

Rugby Union

Secret talks head off breakaway

Robert Armstrong

THE threatened breakaway by England's leading clubs from the Rugby Football Union, due to take place tomorrow, has been postponed indefinitely. Instead another round of talks between the RFU and English Professional Rugby Union Clubs will be held at an undisclosed West End location in an attempt to resolve the year-long dispute that has pushed the game to the edge of chaos.

Informal discussions between representatives of both bodies has produced an outline peace formula with enough bonus points to persuade Epruc to put back its breakaway deadline until such time as talks collapse again. It will be in effect the clubs, who have so far failed to secure a binding contract from Twickenham on the distribution of income and the control of competitions, have climbed down on the basis of a tacit understanding developed among the negotiators.

However, the RFU, which is as anxious as the clubs to avert a damaging split and further public mud-slinging, has lined up a series of concrete proposals that it is understood will bring the clubs an income of about \$20 million over the next five years, mainly from satellite television. "If necessary the clubs and the union will continue their discussions over the weekend and into next week," an RFU spokesman said, adding the expected settlement to emerge later rather than sooner.

"We are keen to ensure that matters move towards a settlement," said the Epruc chairman Donald Kerr. "We want to maintain momentum and look forward to a positive meeting." Kerr will be joined on Epruc's four-man negotiating team by Peter Wheeler, Sir John Hall and Chris Levinson. In return for its outlay and for handing over the lion's share of control of domestic league and cup competitions

to the clubs, Twickenham will expect firm guarantees from Epruc on the release of players for England's international matches and squad training sessions at senior, A and under-21 level. The conditions of availability will be written into the individual contracts that Twickenham will hand out to about 40 members of the England squad.

Yesterday the RFU's treasurer Colin Herridge, who is one of the four-man negotiating panel due to meet Epruc officials, attended an England squad session at Bisham Abbey, where he was jocularly crowned with a wreath of banana skins by the England coach Jack Rowell.

Herridge and his RFU colleagues Cliff Brittle, Tony Hallett and John Richardson will try to avoid stepping on any strategically placed banana skins tomorrow, the eve of the European Cup. Rowell yesterday put his 61-man squad through a vigorous two-hour session that included heavy contact, with the help of the assistant coaches Les Cusworth, Keith Richardson and Richard Hill.

The manager once more delayed the announcement of the England captain to succeed Will Carling. Rowell said the new man would be chosen "as soon as the dispute with the clubs is over". The captain will be appointed initially for one season, Rowell explained, "to allow us to see what he can do under a lot of pressure in a big job".

Rowell said that Carling would not take on a goalkeeping role for England. Carling has been sharing kicking duties for Harlequins this season but Rowell said: "Let's see how far Will gets with his kicking before we ask him to do so for England."

Malcolm O'Kelly, the London Irish lock, and the No. 8 Victor Costello have defied their club and opted to play for Leinster in Saturday's Heineken Cup match against Llanelli at Stradey Park. The Courage League One club had rejected requests to release their players for the Irish provinces in the European tournament.



Bonding together... Chris Sheasby (left) and Paul Grayson (right) combine to stop Tim Rodber at Bisham Abbey yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Anglo-Welsh Cup: Cardiff 24, Harlequins 53

Mensah marks learning curve for Quins

David Plummer

HARLEQUINS left it at one defeat in 17 Anglo-Welsh Cup matches for English clubs as Cardiff suffered a record reverse on their Arms Park ground four days before they travel to London to face Wasps in the opening round of the European Cup.

Both teams were considerably below strength, but Cardiff still fielded seven internationals in the club's first Anglo-

Welsh outing of the season. Notions of English invincibility seemed punctured in the opening period but soon Cardiff were blown away as dismissively as a sunbather swatting away a wasp.

Harlequins started the match needing five tries to bring up the century for English clubs in the Anglo-Welsh Cup. Mike Corcoran kicked an early penalty for them but then Cardiff applied the pressure and came close to scoring four times in two minutes before Lee Jarvis equalised with a penalty in front of the posts.

Having been on top, Cardiff found themselves trailing 34-3 at the interval. The home side were proficient in the set pieces, had the huge boot of Jarvis and relief on pre-set moves, but Quins, slick, innovative and able to change the pace of their game at will, scored four tries through Chalkinor, Mensah, Keyter and Corcoran, all the result of their ability to keep the ball alive and take play through several phases. In contrast Cardiff were slow, pedestrian and predictable.

Cardiff had more to say in the second half but were still given an eloquent lesson, in spite of the advantage of having a Welsh referee who was concerned with imposing himself on the game despite the rugby Quins were serving up.

Cardiff scored three tries in the third quarter in reply to Mensah's second, reducing the visitors' lead to 17 points, but whereas Mensah's try had had its origins 20 yards from the Harlequins line, Cardiff's were all short-range, a scrappy effort that showed how profound was the dif-

ference between the two sides. Cardiff could not even think as quickly as the Quins could handle and pass, and tries from Connolly and Kitchin brought up the half-century.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: South, Williams, Treharne. Goewone: Jarvis, S. Pennington, Jarvis, Harlequins: Tries: Mensah, 2, Corcoran, Chalkinor, Keyter, Connolly, Kitchin. Goewone: Jones, S. Pennington, Corcoran. 2. Cardiff: Jones, S. Hill, L. Davies, G. Jones, M. Williams, L. Davies, R. Treharne, P. Bosh, P. Young, L. Muxlow, K. Stewart, D. Davies, M. Bennett, J. Ringer, G. Williams (capt). Harlequins: S. Connolly, J. Williams, P. Mensah, J. Keyter, M. Corcoran, P. Chalkinor, R. Kitchin, A. Connolly, H. Brown, A. Mullins (capt), G. Llewellyn, A. Snow, E. Pickup, S. Owen, M. Watson. Referee: R. Davies (WLU).

Sport in brief

Shenton comes of age on world tour

THE British junior champion Tracey Shenton made her senior World Tour breakthrough in the second round of the Perrier Women's World Open Squash Championship at Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. The 19-year-old from Stone in Staffordshire defeated the 10th seed, Essiee's Rebecca Massey, 4-1, 9-7, 9-10, 8-9, 8-5 in 70 minutes. The England No. 3 Fiona Geaves dismissed the American No. 1 Dener Hollieran 4-9, 9-3, 9-4, 9-4 in 39 minutes to reach an all-English third-round match against Sue Wright. The world No. 1 Jansher Khan and his Australian rival Rodney Eyles will contest the Qatar International final in Doha for the third successive time after winning their semi-finals yesterday. Jansher, seven times world champion, has beaten Eyles in the last two Qatar finals and will aim to win the title for the fifth consecutive time today. The Pakistani defeated the unseeded Frenchman Julien Bonnetat 15-8, 15-11, 15-8 in the first semi-final, which lasted 63 minutes. Eyles, who inflicted a rare defeat on Jansher in the Hong Kong Open final in August, beat the fifth-seeded Chris Walker of England 17-16, 15-10, 11-15, 16-10 in an hour.

No breaks for Capriati

THE 20-year-old 1992 Olympic tennis champion Jennifer Capriati, on the women's circuit part-time after a two-year break because of drug problems, was beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the second round of the Filderstadt tournament in Germany. Hampshire's Chris Wilkinson is guaranteed the home circuit title after defeating the national junior champion Arvind Parmar from Hertfordshire 4-6, 6-2 in the quarter-finals of the LTA Autumn Satellite Masters in Stretford yesterday. Wilkinson, who will now move back up to well inside the world's top 200, meets the South African fifth seed Robbie Koenig in today's semi-finals.

Kiwi cleared for Saints

THE Super League champions St Helens have received work permit clearance for the 23-year-old Auckland Warriors prop Julian O'Neill. He will arrive at Knowsley Road early in December and will make his debut for the Saints in the two-leg Norwich Christmas Challenge against the Premiership winners Wigan.

Tumelty to face New Zealand

LEE TUMELTY's impressive form at the World Cup men's preliminary-round hockey competition in Sardinia has earned him a starting place in Ireland's semi-final against New Zealand today. The Banbridge youngster has made a huge impact in his first international tournament and is likely to get the nod in midfield as the Ireland captain Alan Dowd is struggling for fitness. Dowd suffered a recurrence of a back injury in yesterday's 3-1 defeat of Italy, having missed Ireland's previous group matches against Kenya and Poland with the problem. With the Irish having already secured a place in the next phase of the World Cup qualifying process, the coach Cess Koppelaar is unlikely to risk his captain's health. Koppelaar sees Tumelty as a successor to the great midfielder Jimmy Kirkwood, the Seoul goal medalist who retired last season.

Nemeth goes cosmopolitan

ENGLAND's basketball coach Leszlo Nemeth has picked six overseas players in his squad to play the five remaining European Championship qualifying games, beginning against Latvia at Leicester on October 30. *writes Robert Pryce*

John Amaechi, who spent last season with the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Spencer Dumley, whose season was derailed by injury, return to the team and the newcomers include Delme Harriman, in his first year out of Stanford University, Panji Grainger, the young Manchester guard, and Jason Swaine, Sheffield's long-range gunner.

Golf

Captain Kite's reconnaissance flight for cup campaign

Michael Britten in Madrid

TOM KITE is 46, wears large glasses and looks more like a librarian than a professional golfer. Yet this studious Texan, a former US Open champion who has earned more than \$5 million in a 25-year career, is the man charged with recovering the Ryder Cup for the United States and exacting retribution for Europe's victory at Oak Hill last year.

Ostensibly he is here to play in the Old Pro-Am tournament which is part of the European Cup qualifying process and begins today at La Moraleja. But the real purpose of his visit "is to reconnoitre the Ryder Cup arena at Valderrama next week and gauge the intensity of the Spanish inquisition his US team will face next September."

Yesterday the US captain got his reconnaissance in first by declaring he would like nothing more than to be a playing captain, and if his opponent just happened to be Severiano Ballesteros then so much the better. "It would be an honour for both of us to make the team as player and captain," he said. "Both of us need to get our games in shape, but I can assure you that anybody who has made as many teams as we have wants to be part of the action."

Ballesteros agreed. "I too will be trying to get into the team on merit. I will decide next August." They played each other in the 1985 match at the Belfry, when Kite was three up with five to play but was held to a half when Ballesteros won the 14th, 15th and 17th with birdies. Kite has remained unbeaten in his seven cup singles but for the moment the Spaniard has an edge, for he lies 21st in the European Ryder rankings whereas Kite is 78th in the American list.

Kite has an ace up his sleeve in the sensational newcomer Tiger Woods. "Having gained his tour card by winning in Las Vegas he is now eligible to start winning Ryder points," he said. "I will be flabbergasted if he does not qualify for our team."

Dunhill Cup of cosy complexity



Tiger by the tall... Woods (left) faces pressures familiar to former prodigies Els and Mickelson



THE Dunhill Cup, that annual exercise in calculation and confusion — its format being that contradiction in terms, medal match-play — begins over the Old Course at St Andrews today. A combination of money and the allure of the venue has attracted several of the world's superstars, most of whom do not understand the format themselves.

The programme devotes no fewer than 30 lines of tiny type trying to explain who does what, when, and to whom, but all could be magically modified by removing one word — medal — from the tournament description. Straightforward match play has the twin benefits of being a traditional format in the game's most traditional place, and comprehensible to all.

Teams of three from 16 countries will contest the four days and such luminaries as the leaders of the European and the American rankings,

respectively Colin Montgomerie (Scotland) and Phil Mickelson (United States), will represent their countries.

So too will Greg Norman (Australia), Nick Price (Zimbabwe) and Ernie Els (South Africa) as they attempt to lead their teams through a round-robin series of matches to the top of one of the four four-team groups, so qualifying for a semi-final on Sunday morning, with the winners playing the final for first prizes of \$100,000 a man that same afternoon. Got it?

There will of course be some good golf, probably some great matches and quite possibly a few ho-hos, though probably none so funny as in 1988 when Montgomerie, in assessing his country's match with Paraguay, said: "If we can't beat that lot we should all go home." They didn't, so they did. Paraguay also beat Wales that year and lost only by 2-1 to the group winners, the United States.

That country are the top seeds this week, followed by Australia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. England, represented by Barry Lane, Lee Westwood and Jonathan Lomas, are unseeded for the first time in the cup's 12 years.

Scotland are seeded fifth; Ireland, who must have an outstanding chance with a team consisting of Darren Clarke, Paul McGinley and Padraig Harrington, are sixth.

The US are captained by Mickelson, who won a tournament while still an amateur and was the last "new Nicklaus" before the latest, Tiger Woods. Young Woods, in fact, has been the talk of a town that talks of little else but golf and Mickelson was happy to add his "ho-ho". "When I came on to the tour I already had my card. Tiger has had to get his, but he did that without the blink of an eye. It's not just the win, he had an 11th, a fifth and a

David Davies finds some of the world's leading three-man teams preparing for another perplexing week at St Andrews

third in his three previous events. He's impressed everyone on tour.

"Just so long as he doesn't start believing all that 'How great you are' stuff," said Els, who also heard all the hype as a youngster but had a level-headed family around him to keep his feet on the ground.

Perhaps Price was the most coherent about Woods. "He has come along at a time when America desperately needed a superstar. He has an unbelievable future but I think the US press will give him a tough time. He will need to have a pretty mature head on his shoulders."

TODAY'S PARISHES: Group 1: United States v Italy, Spain v England. Group 2: Zimbabwe v India, Scotland v Sweden. Group 3: South Africa v Canada, Ireland v Wales. Group 4: New Zealand v Germany, Australia v Japan.

Cricket

Windies cut their supply lines

David Hopps

WEST INDIAN Test players will be phased out of English county cricket within two years after the completion of a retainer system designed to ensure their loyalty to the game in the Caribbean.

Although West Indian players still involved in the county game, such as Courtney Walsh and Carl Hooper, will be allowed to honour existing contracts, their departure looks sure to signal the end of a procession of top names into the English game over the past 30 years.

With Australia already dissuading its top bowlers from taking on the demands of an English summer, the South Africans having similar doubts, and Sri Lanka regularly hosting August tours, the survival of overseas players in county cricket is looking bleak.

The West Indies board has offered one-year contracts worth between \$10,000 and \$40,000 to encourage 20 leading players to remain in the Caribbean to play and coach. A further 30 contracts are planned, preventing English counties even from identifying promising young players long before they reach Test level.

The board's chief executive Steve Camacho confirmed: "Our first contracts have gone out to potential West Indies players. The others will go to good first-class players, who contribute enormously to the quality of the first-class game in the West Indies."

"Most of our players now play professionally in England and South Africa when they are not playing international cricket for the West Indies. These contracts would ensure they remain at home to help raise the standard of club cricket and to coach."

"We aren't telling the players where they can't play. We are trying to protect the future of West Indies cricket and you can only protect it by looking after it from its origin to its end."

Hooper has completed one year of two-year deals at Kent and Gloucestershire's chief executive Philip August is confident that Walsh will honour his promise to sign a fresh two-year contract.

"I spoke to Courtney on Monday and have also had discussions with other players at the West Indies board," he said. "If some players decide to return to county cricket they will certainly not be penalised by the West Indies authorities."

West Indies cricket has been refreshed by an \$8 million sponsorship deal over five years from Cable and Wireless, as well as the appointment of a dynamic new president, Pat Rousseau.

Australia and India fear their one-off starting today in New Delhi will not last the scheduled five days. The pitch at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium is so worn that spinners are expected to dominate the game for the new Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Complaints by Wisden writer rejected

FOUR complaints about BBC Radio 5 Live's treatment of the author of the article that questioned the commitment of non-white England cricketers were yesterday rejected by a broadcasting watchdog.

Robert Henderson, whose article it is in the Blood? appeared in the July 1996 issue of Wisden Cricket Monthly, reported the former England captain David Gower to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission because, he claimed, two editions of Gower's Cricket Weekly show were unbalanced and hostile towards him.

The programmes debated Henderson's article, in which he suggested that what he termed "negro" and Asian players in England's Test team who were not born and raised in Britain might not have the same commitment to the team as other players.

Henderson, a freelance writer, also complained about his treatment on Radio 5 Live's The Magazine programme and The Back Page. He alleged a Radio 5 presenter asked if his article was "racist claptrap" and cut short callers who might have supported his views.

The commission said a less pejorative phrase should have been used but could find no unfairness to Henderson in any of the programmes. "The England pace bowlers Phillip DeFreitas and Devon Malcolm, both West Indian-born, were later awarded 'substantial' damages against the Wisden magazine in the High Court.

ENGLAND'S R. Baker, R. Scrimshaw (C. Palmer), Brown, Austin (London), McGinley, Swales, P. Ryan, Vaughan (Sheffield), Gushko (Manchester), Stokes (Newcastle), Gardner (Wiltshire), Havelock (Trident), P. Scrimshaw (Thames Valley), Amaechi (Punjab), Dumley (Lincoln), Wright (Boscon).

Superman bike is banned, page 13

Low farce in Tallinn, page 14

Secret talks head off breakaway, page 15

West Indies cut supply line, page 15

Sports Guardian

WORLD CUP SOCCER

European Group Two
England 2, Poland 1

Shearer double spares England defence



Pole-star... Marek Citko, alone beyond the far post, opens the scoring after six minutes at Wembley last night with David Seaman spreading himself in vain. PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE SHANKS

David Lacey

APACKED Wembley kept the home fires burning for England last night but without Alan Shearer the evening would have become a walk. Two goals from the England captain considerably eased Glenn Hoddle's discomfort in his first home game as national coach after Marek Citko had given Poland an early lead. But Hoddle's three-man defence looked vulnerable throughout and the 1998 World Cup looked a long way away.

draw with Portugal at Wembley last season. Despite his explosive turn of speed and considerable strength in the air, Ferdinand's had been an England promise largely unfulfilled. Graham Taylor had persevered with him; Terry Venables had been less impressed. His renewed presence alongside Shearer made it even more imperative that England produced consistently good crosses last night. Barmby was dropped to accommodate Ferdinand but Hinchcliffe's trusty left foot was retained. Not that this was of immediate concern, the way things turned out. Two probing Polish attacks suggested both that Nowak could find space with ease and that England might rue Hoddle's decision to dispense with Pallister. Within six minutes theory had become uncomfortable fact. Baluszynski collected a return pass from Hajto on the right and sent a routine cross that should not have caused any problems. But Warzycha

had come between Southgate and Neville, confusing the defenders as he allowed the ball to run on to the unmarked Citko, who scuttled in from the left to beat Seaman with a narrow-angled shot. This was not in the script. Wembley, packed with flags and expectation, had assumed that England would simply carry on from Euro 96. As the Poles continued to unravel Hoddle's defence, while getting enough men behind the ball to frustrate England's

attack, memories of less happy Wembley nights loomed. Ominously England's attack began to lack width. Too many movements were concentrated in the crowded middle corridor — either that or long hopeful balls aimed vaguely in the direction of Ferdinand or Shearer. Then after 25 minutes Shearer at last received the sort of ball he wanted and the scores were level. Beckham's long diagonal cross from the

right was inspired, defeating both Wojtala's leap and Wozniak's advance off his line. Shearer, coming in behind Wojtala, headed firmly into the net and Wembley hearts acquired a more regular beat. Nowak, however, continued to orchestrate Poland's movements and still England's defence hung loose, inviting the angled pass and the well-timed attacking run. But, as long as Shearer retained his mood of the summer, none of this seemed to matter.

Eight minutes before half-time England were in front, thanks to Shearer's hunger for goals. McManaman, burrowing away skilfully, and Beckham, catching the Poles off guard with one late run through the middle, were being let down by Ferdinand's poor touch but now the Newcastle striker set up Shearer for a second goal. Shearer's first shot took a deflection off Wojtala and went straight to Ferdinand, who laid the ball straight back again. Shearer took two strides more before beating Wozniak with a thunderous drive from the penalty arc. Had a far-post header not been off target as he met Hinchcliffe's sharply inswing-

ing corner, Shearer might have completed a hat-trick in 40 minutes. Six minutes into the second half Pallister came off the bench to add height, weight and authority to England's defence — but not by choice. Southgate had hurt an ankle trying to intercept the advancing Michalski and could not continue. England's football was still far from impressive. Too often they gave the ball away in a midfield where they had been outnumbered for much of the game. But McManaman and Beckham were doing well, consistently finding avenues of approach to hit the Poles on the counter-attack and at their

most dangerous when they were turning the opposition on the right. Gascoigne, too, was still capable of inspired moments and an audacious attempt to chip the Poland goalkeeper had Wozniak arching back to tip the ball over the bar. **ENGLAND:** Seaman (Arsenal); G. Hoddle (Manchester United); Southgate (Aston Villa); Pallister, Manchester United; Stone, Spurs (Reading); Ferdinand (Blackburn); Shearer (Newcastle); Nowak (Liverpool); Shearer (Newcastle); Nowak (Liverpool). **POLAND:** Wojtala (Porto); Szustold (Lazio Warsaw); Wozniak (Widzew Lodz); Zebrowski (Gornik Zabrze); Michalski (Widzew Lodz); Walicki (VFL Bochum); Baluszynski (VFL Bochum); Hajto (Borussia Dortmund); Citko (Widzew Lodz); Warzycha (Poznan); Segnowski, Fajerski, 76; Rafanowicz (Germany).

Group Eight: Republic of Ireland 3, Macedonia 0

Two-goal Cascarino the Irish inspiration

Charlie Stuart in Dublin

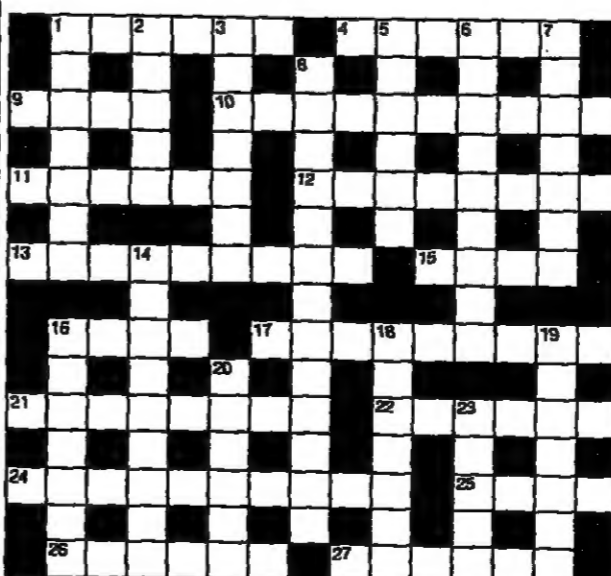
THE Republic of Ireland took a giant step to the World Cup finals in France in 1996 when they swept aside the challenge of Macedonia at Lansdowne Road last night. Their hero was the 34-year-old veteran Tony Cascarino with two second-half goals to add to Jason McAteer's early strike. "Another victory at home will make it a very happy Christmas for us all," said their manager Mick McCarthy. McCarthy had promised that the Irish would be positive from the start, and his young team wasted no time in carrying out those instructions and warning a home crowd of 31,671 supporters. Only eight minutes had gone when a sweeping move started by the Leeds defender Ian Harte allowed Alan McLoughlin to set up a chance for Liverpool's Jason McAteer, whose 16-yard drive gave Danco Celestki no chance in the Macedonia goal. It was

McAteer's first goal for the Republic in 19 appearances. It was only the heroics of Celestki that denied the Republic a further goal through McLoughlin, but the visitors gradually settled down and came close to an equaliser when Toni Micevski's shot flew just over the bar. Cascarino, reveling in a rare start in Irish territory, almost added to the Republic's lead after 28 minutes with a header touched over by Celestki. Macedonia, skilful on the ball but lacking penetration, again might have equalised when Cossev led on a perfect ball for Partizan Belgrade's Georgi Hristov just before half-time but his 20-yard effort was inches wide. McCarthy shook the complacency out of his team during the interval with a pep talk that produced instant results. O'Neill battered down the challenge of sweeper Nikolovski and Cascarino was on hand to hook the ball into the corner of the net. Two up after 45 minutes,

the Republic began to dominate the second period. Townsend and Staunton both went close before Cascarino scored a third goal in 70 minutes. A cross from Blackburn's Jeff Kenna took a deflection off a defender and Cascarino made no mistake with a powerful close-range header. In the 60th minute Townsend hit an upright with a fierce left-foot shot after a knock-down from Cascarino, the man of this match. Two minutes later the crowd roared their appreciation when the veteran John Aldridge came on. They wanted him the score the goal that would have equalled Frank Stapleton's Irish record of 20 goals at international level, but despite the encouragement of the Liffey roar Aldridge was happy just to be part of another great World Cup night. **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND:** A. Kelly, Kenna, Iwan, Harte (Middlesbrough); Brown, Staunton, Townsend, McLoughlin (O'Brien); O'Neill (Aston Villa); McAteer, Cossev. **MACEDONIA:** Celestki, Mijalovski, Begonovic (Spartan); Sedjanski, Nikolovski, Jovanovski, Jovan, T. Mijalovski (Zaharevski); 60, Hristov, Citko, Mijalovski. Referee: K. Fisher (Denmark).

Guardian Crossword No 20,780

Set by Rufus



Across

- 1 No more wins — that's the limit (6)
- 4 Order a cavalry attack (6)
- 9 Key study of ex-P.M. (4)
- 10 Quits the board, getting a fair settlement (6,4)
- 11 Old soldier taking flight (6)
- 12 Catalogue to the French pictures (9)
- 13 Always thoughtless? Doesn't matter (5,4)
- 15 Kind of line used by a puffer (4)
- 16 Be a shade over-extravagant? (4)
- 17 Island in the Atlantic rising above the horizon (9)
- 21 Dance I sat out, seeing an offensive weapon (8)
- 22 Show rank subservience? (6)

Down

- 2 Doreen's bent back (7)
- 3 Some have eaten chips with fish (7)
- 3 Remedy found in no way strange (7)
- 5 By means of joining present and past (6)
- 6 Army jumpers (3,6)
- 7 Obliteration is certain after time (7)
- 8 Killing time (7,6)
- 14 Agitated farm animal that is caught in a net, perhaps (9)
- 16 Washed up when everyone was in bed (7)

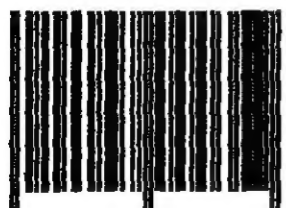
ACROSS 1. NO MORE WINS — THAT'S THE LIMIT (6) 4. ORDER A CAVALRY ATTACK (6) 9. KEY STUDY OF EX-P.M. (4) 10. QUITS THE BOARD, GETTING A FAIR SETTLEMENT (6,4) 11. OLD SOLDIER TAKING FLIGHT (6) 12. CATALOGUE TO THE FRENCH PICTURES (9) 13. ALWAYS THOUGHTLESS? DOESN'T MATTER (5,4) 15. KIND OF LINE USED BY A PUFFER (4) 16. BE A SHADE OVER-EXTRAVAGANT? (4) 17. ISLAND IN THE ATLANTIC RISING ABOVE THE HORIZON (9) 21. DANCE I SAT OUT, SEEING AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON (8) 22. SHOW RANK SUBSERVIENCE? (6) **DOWN** 2. DOREEN'S BENT BACK (7) 3. SOME HAVE EATEN CHIPS WITH FISH (7) 3. REMEDY FOUND IN NO WAY STRANGE (7) 5. BY MEANS OF JOINING PRESENT AND PAST (6) 6. ARMY JUMPERS (3,6) 7. OBLITERATION IS CERTAIN AFTER TIME (7) 8. KILLING TIME (7,6) 14. AGITATED FARM ANIMAL THAT IS CAUGHT IN A NET, PERHAPS (9) 16. WASHED UP WHEN EVERYONE WAS IN BED (7)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,779

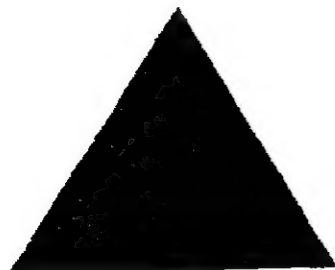
- 18 Tried writing to the editor (7)
- 19 They're not at home with regulations (7)
- 20 Timber and mineral found on land (6)
- 23 Old ship under last bit of sail makes slow movement (6)

Solution tomorrow

20. Shook? Then call our solutions line on 0891 333 222. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATE.



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Altogether more interesting bar code.



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The sense of ferrets fighting for mastery of a septic tank is depressing — poetry is the national art, after all — and it's unlikely to be what the well-disposed new reader wants to hear about.
Sean O'Brien

Books, G2 page 8

Handwritten signature or mark.

October 11 1996

Friday

European weather

Cold

Dear diary,

inside

Britain